



Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups

Statewide Annual Report 2010

**Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee
Technical Assistance Team**

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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Groups (LWGs) and Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC) accomplishments, and sage-grouse conservation efforts in 2010. Eleven LWGs held a total of 60 meetings with an average of 12.8 attendees per meeting. Overall 277 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting. Of the 11 active LWGs, 9 have completed plans and the others are in progress. The SAC met 4 times in 2010, with an average of 34 attendees per meeting. SAC subcommittees were active in 2010, with the SAC Mitigation Subcommittee producing a Mitigation Framework. The Technical Assistance Team and Education and Funding subcommittees met in December 2010 to begin work on tasks assigned to them in the revised Implementation Chapter of the state plan. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 1,070 leks statewide. Of these, 315 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 453 leks were counted on 77 established lek routes. Statewide, 2010 male lek attendance was up slightly from 2008 and 2009; overall, sage-grouse numbers had been increasing from 2004–2006, followed by a decrease in 2007 and a larger decrease in 2008. Sage-grouse productivity statewide, as determined by wing collections was 2.09 chicks per hen in 2010, which was slightly above the previous 5-year's average of 1.81. Estimated sage-grouse harvest in 2010 was 4,052 birds, which is less than the previous 5-year's average of 8,580 birds. About 125,111 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2010. Since 2002, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation has helped provide funding for 122 sage-grouse projects including 53 habitat projects and 51 inventory, monitoring, and research projects. To date, these grants have helped improve at least 31,567 acres of sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.

INTRODUCTION

In 1997, the Idaho Sage-grouse Task Force, under direction of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, completed the Idaho Sage-grouse Management Plan (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 1997). The 1997 Plan divided Idaho into sage-grouse management areas and called for the creation of LWGs that would develop sage-grouse management plans for each of Idaho's Sage-grouse Planning Areas (SGPA).

The SAC was formed in 2003, with members appointed by former Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) Director Steve Huffaker. The main purpose of the SAC was described as, “. . . helping all Idahoans, and especially Local Working Groups, by making sure they have the funding, support, and information they need to put meaningful sage-grouse conservation on the ground.” In addition to representatives from key agencies, the SAC includes private citizens from agricultural and conservation groups and at least one member from each LWG. There are currently about 21 SAC members and 10 technical advisors (SAC Technical Assistance Team [TAT]).

In July 2006, the *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* was completed and signed by a diverse group of cooperators (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). This updated plan provides the management framework for sage-grouse in Idaho and identifies LWGs as the heart of Idaho's sage-grouse conservation strategy. Prior to 2006, there were 5 established LWGs. The 2006 plan identified 13 SGPAs; since then 2 of the planning areas have merged into one (the West Magic Valley and East Magic Valley combined into the North Magic Valley LWG) (Figure 1). Several LWGs have since amended their planning area boundaries.

Currently there are 11 active LWGs and the 12th (Mountain Home) has not yet formalized. Of these 11 LWGs, 9 have completed plans (Table 1).

This statewide annual report is the fourth compilation of annual reports from each LWG. The purpose of this document is to summarize LWG and SAC accomplishments and sage-grouse conservation efforts in 2010.

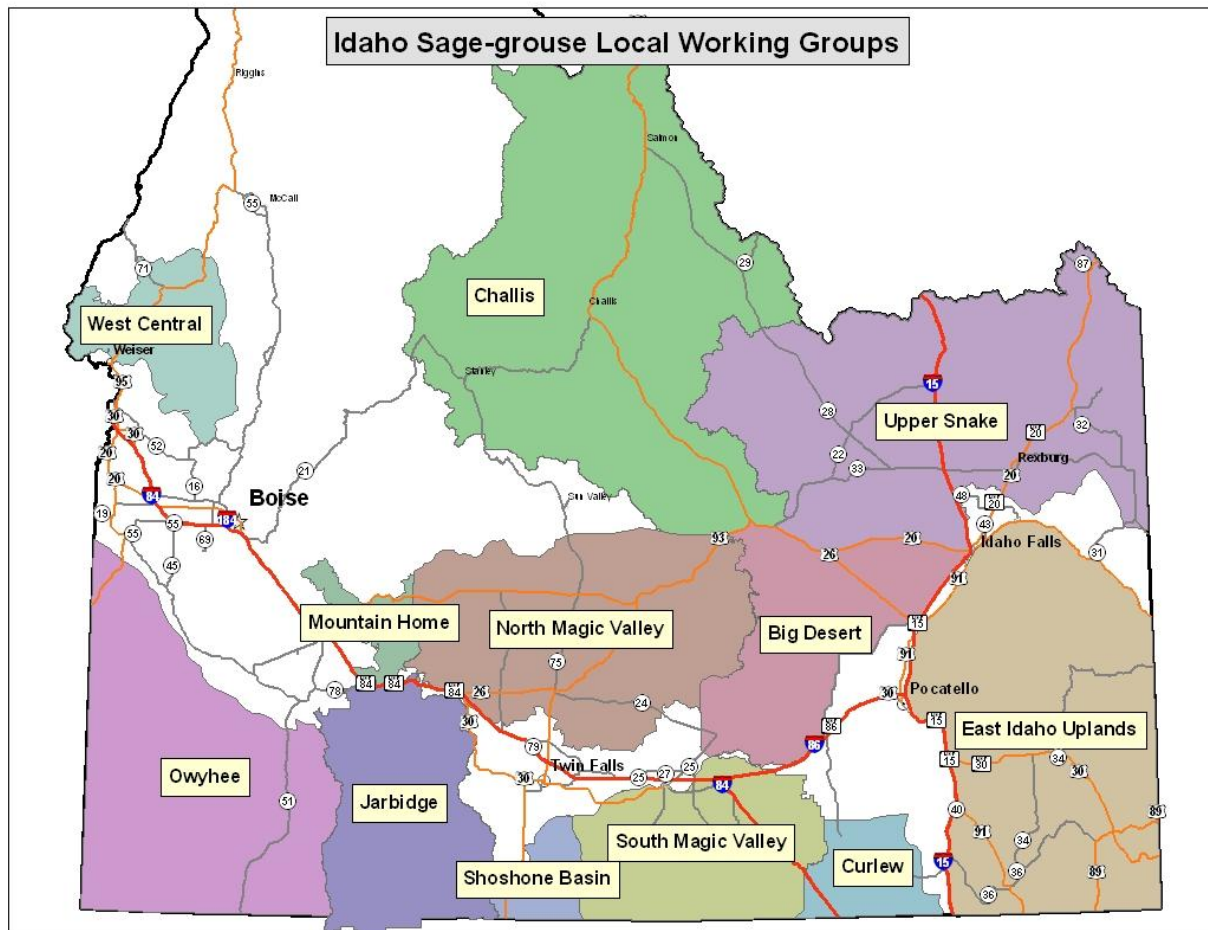


Figure 1. Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups and associated Sage-grouse Planning Areas. Boundaries were updated by some groups in 2009.

Table 1. Status of Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Group plans.

Local Working Group	Status of Plan
Big Desert	Completed March 2010
Challis	Completed October 2007
East Idaho Uplands	Completed March 2011
Greater Curlew Valley	Completed June 2004
Jarbridge	Completed December 2007
Mountain Home	Group not formalized
North Magic Valley	In progress
Owyhee	Completed August 2004
Shoshone Basin	Completed October 2008
South Magic Valley	In progress
Upper Snake	Completed June 2004
West Central	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), signed February 12, 2010

METHODS

In 2006, the SAC TAT developed a draft Local Working Group annual report form. Four LWGs completed and submitted a report in 2006. The form was revised in 2007, based on input from these 4 LWGs, and the first *Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups Statewide Annual Report* was published March 27, 2008. In 2010, we asked each LWG to also report on accomplishments towards LWG tasks identified in the revised Implementation Chapter of the state plan (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006; as amended in 2009). Each LWG facilitator and IDFG regional contact received the *Local Working Group Annual Report Form 2010*, and were asked to return the completed form by January 15, 2011. The SAC TAT chairman compiled the reports, produced the draft document, and then distributed to SAC TAT members for review prior to final publication.

RESULTS

Eleven LWGs submitted an annual report. The following results are summarized by major category in the annual report form.

LWG and SAC Meetings

Eleven LWGs held a total of 60 meetings with an average of 12.8 attendees per meeting. The number of meetings in a year for a LWG ranged from 2 to 12. Overall 277 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting in 2010. This was only down slightly from the 280 individuals that attended meetings in 2009. The highest attendance at LWG meetings was in 2007 when 345 individuals attended. Attendees reported a total of 53,419 miles travelled to attend meetings in 2010, for an average of 203 miles per person. Attendees were interested citizens and landowners, or represented various grazing associations, nongovernmental organizations, and state, county and federal agencies.

The SAC held 4 meetings in 2010, with an average of 34 attendees per meeting. SAC 2010 meeting summaries can be found on the sage-grouse pages of the IDFG website at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage_grouse/

In lieu of a January 2011 SAC meeting, 3 SAC subcommittees met in December 2010 to begin work on the tasks that were assigned to them in the revised Implementation Chapter 6 of the State Plan. Ten members of the SAC TAT met for a full day on December 14; 6 members of the Education Subcommittee met for ½ day on December 15; and 3 members of the Funding Subcommittee met for ½ day on December 15. Progress on tasks is reported later in this document.

SAC Mitigation Subcommittee

The Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho (Idaho Sage-Grouse Advisory Committee 2006; as amended in 2009) calls for the development of a “proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and recommendations for policy consideration” (Measure 6.2.4.). In early 2010, the Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC) established the Mitigation Subcommittee to complete this task. The Mitigation Subcommittee met several times from the late spring, through the fall of 2010 and found broad areas of agreement among its diverse participants. The executive summary given below outlines the Mitigation Subcommittee’s consensus recommendations for the creation of an Idaho-based program to compensate for the impacts of large infrastructure projects on sage-grouse and their habitats. The Mitigation Framework is supported by the SAC. The Mitigation Subcommittee presented the Framework to state and federal agencies in 2010, and will continue to work with those agencies, the Association of Counties, and other interested parties in 2011 and map out future direction to develop the full mitigation program.

Executive Summary of the Mitigation Framework

The state of Idaho is seeing an increasing number of infrastructure projects, such as transmission lines and wind energy facilities, proposed in the state’s sagebrush steppe ecosystems. Where federal permits are required, the environmental review process for these projects will analyze how these projects affect sage-grouse and will consider a range of potential mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or offset any impacts. It is likely that the environmental review process will lead at least some developers and agencies to implement compensatory mitigation.

Compensatory mitigation consists of compensating for residual project impacts that are not avoided or minimized by providing substitute resources or habitats, often at a different location than the project area. For sage-grouse, this would include, among other things, protecting and restoring sagebrush habitats to offset habitat losses and other effects of infrastructure projects.

This framework describes the general outline for a sage-grouse compensatory mitigation program in Idaho. This program would employ an “in-lieu fee” approach to compensatory mitigation through which a project developer would pay funds into an account managed by the mitigation program for performance of mitigation actions that provide measureable benefits for sage-grouse and their habitats within Idaho.

The Mitigation Framework does not alter the legal standards or procedures for review and approval of infrastructure projects. Rather, it offers an option that project developers and/or

regulators may choose for implementing mitigation plans and agency permit conditions. It should be emphasized that this program would not relieve project developers and permitting agencies of their obligation to avoid and minimize environmental impacts through appropriate project siting, design and implementation.

Although the initial focus is on sage-grouse, the Mitigation Framework can be readily adapted to provide compensatory mitigation for other sagebrush obligate and associated species. The suitability of the Framework for other species and natural features has not been evaluated.

The objectives of the Mitigation Framework include:

- Provide a credible, efficient, transparent, and flexible mechanism to implement compensatory mitigation;
- Ensure that sage-grouse impacts are offset by actions that benefit the affected species and habitats;
- Provide increased certainty for developers and agencies;
- Involve private and public partners in crafting solutions;
- Provide developers the opportunity to offset the impacts of project development and operation on sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat, and provide a consistent mechanism to offset impacts to the species that can be evaluated in future reviews of the species' status; and
- Evaluate issues based on best available scientific information, while acknowledging and responding to scientific uncertainty.

The Mitigation Framework would be established through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) among entities that have the capacity and commitment to assist in its implementation. Such parties may include land and wildlife management agencies, counties, tribes, participating private infrastructure development companies, and non-governmental organizations. The MOA would define the specific roles and responsibilities, procedures, and tasks needed to operate an Idaho-based compensatory mitigation program.

The Mitigation Framework envisions a program with the following attributes: (1) a Mitigation Team and program administrator to steer the mitigation program and ensure strong oversight; (2) technically sound and transparent guidelines for estimating compensatory mitigation costs; (3) a science-based statewide strategy to guide the selection of mitigation actions that will receive funding; (4) provisions that the costs of operating the program will be borne by infrastructure developers that use the Mitigation Framework to deliver compensatory mitigation; (5) monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation actions funded by the Mitigation Framework program; (6) a system to track benefits provided by the Mitigation Framework to sage-grouse habitat in Idaho; and (7) periodic evaluation and adaptation of the Mitigation Framework program.

This framework provides only a general outline of a proposed Idaho-based compensatory mitigation program. It is intended to assess the level of support for crafting the agreements and completing the technical tasks needed to bring the Mitigation Framework into being.

Sage-grouse Population Monitoring

Leks

Sage-grouse breeding populations are typically monitored by counts of males at leks each spring. A lek is a traditional display area. The area is normally located in a very open site in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitats. The quality of lek data in Idaho varies greatly, ranging from 1 helicopter survey over an area every 5 years to annual standardized counts on established lek routes.

A lek route is a count of male sage-grouse on a group of leks that are relatively close and represent part or all of a single breeding population. The following summarizes the standardized procedures for lek routes (Connelly et al. 2003):

- All leks within a lek route should be counted on the same day within 1.5 hours.
- Lek routes should be run from 0.5 hours before sunrise to 1 hour after sunrise.
- Each route should be run 4 times during the spring lekking season (generally late March to mid-April, depending on elevation).
- Lek routes should not be conducted under poor weather conditions (rain or snow or winds >15 mph).

Lek route results are reported as the peak male attendance on one day for all leks in the route. Lek route data that have been correctly collected through time are the most appropriate data for assessing population trends.

We compiled lek data and survey effort for each planning area. Specifically we recorded the number of leks that surveyed by air and ground in 2010, the number of lek routes in the area, and the average number of males per lek for leks on routes from 2005–2010. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 1,070 leks statewide in 2010. Of these, 315 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 453 leks were counted on 77 established lek routes (Table 2). The location and distribution of lek routes are shown in Figure 2.

We reported lek data in 2 ways for this report: 1) Average males per lek for all leks counted on routes; and 2) Total males on lek routes that were visited each year from 2005 to 2010. Average males per lek allow comparisons within and among SGPAs (Table 3). The average is, however, influenced by the number of leks surveyed. The number of leks surveyed on routes was not consistent among years, and in most cases, the number of leks surveyed increased each year. To get a better picture of trends, the SAC TAT also reported the total number of males counted on lek routes within an SGPA, but only used those lek routes that were counted each year from 2005 to 2010. This method allows a more valid comparison among years within an SGPA and statewide (Table 4 and Figure 3). However, because there are a variable number of lek routes in each SGPA, total males cannot be compared among SGPAs.

In summary, statewide 2010 male lek attendance was up slightly from 2008 and 2009; overall, sage-grouse numbers had been increasing from 2004–2006, followed by a decrease in 2007 and a larger decrease in 2008 (Figure 3). Three SGPAs exhibited a decline in male lek attendance from 2009–2010. The Challis and Upper Snake SGPAs had an increase in total males from 2008 to 2009, but a decrease in 2010. Total number of males counted in the Jarbidge SGPA has steadily declined since 2006.

Table 2. Sage-grouse leks surveyed in each Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2010 Leks Surveys				Total leks surveyed
	Leks surveyed by air^a	Individual leks ground surveyed^a	Number of lek routes	Leks surveyed on routes^a	
Big Desert	0	79	6	55	135
Challis	0	35	14	41	76
East Idaho Uplands	4	22	4	9	31
Greater Curlew Valley	0	11	4	14	25
Jarbidge	88	33	9	53	137
Mountain Home	0	5	3	4	9
North Magic Valley	28	47	9	92	164
Owyhee	259	16	7	18	266
Shoshone Basin	0	27	1	16	43
South Magic Valley	0	27	3	18	45
Upper Snake	0	3	13	119	122
West Central	0	3	4	14	17
Statewide	375	308	77	453	1,070

^a Some leks were surveyed by air and on the ground, so numbers may not total across the columns.

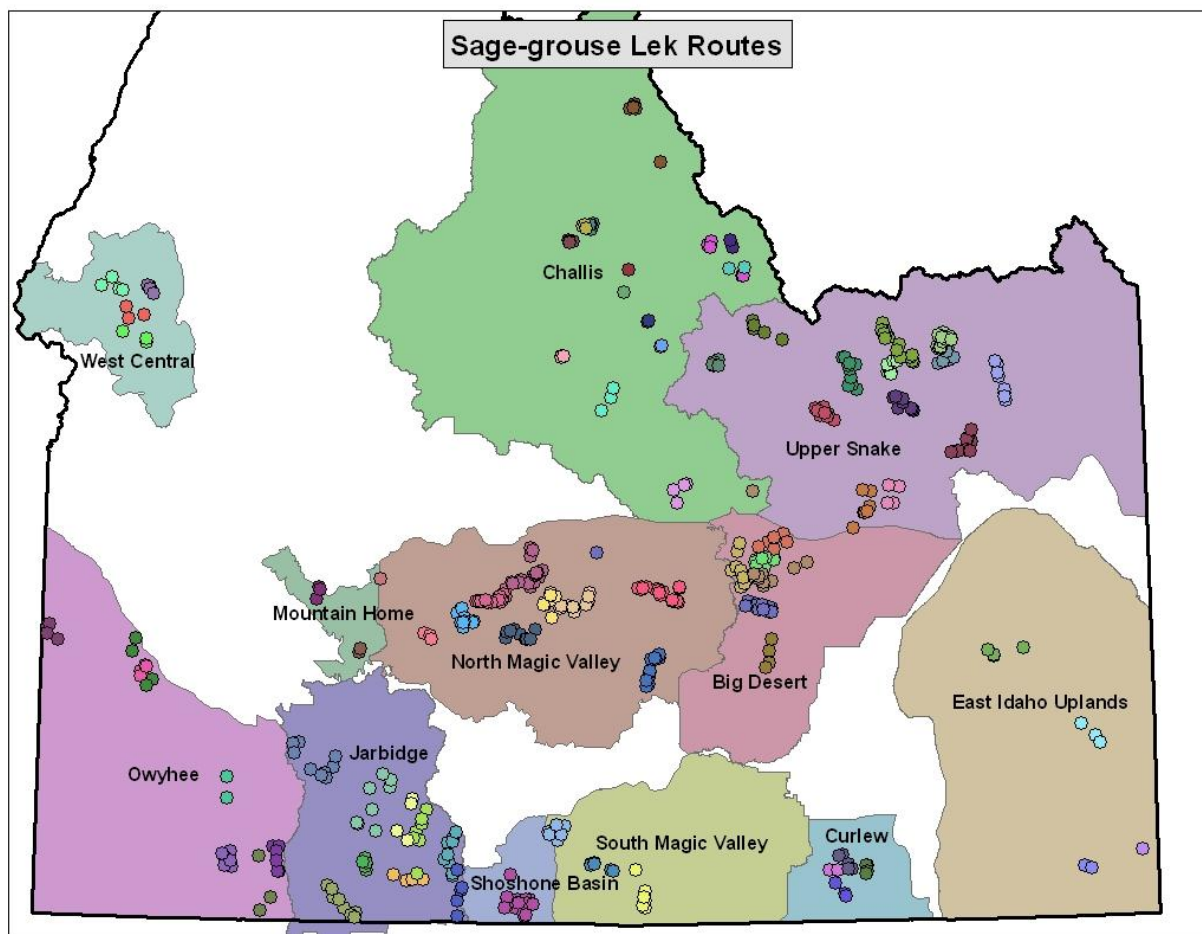


Figure 2. Location of sage-grouse lek routes by Sage-grouse Planning Area. Lek clusters with the same color encompass a lek route.

Table 3. Average number of males per lek for all lek routes in Idaho, 2005–2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Average Number of Males per Lek											
	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg
Big Desert	43	20	43	23	44	20	48	15	49	14	55	22
Challis	29	22	30	27	33	25	32	16	35	17	41	14
East Idaho Uplands	3	36	2	39	2	31	2	26	1	13	9	18
Greater Curlew Valley	12	19	14	17	14	15	13	13	14	11	14	12
Jarbridge	44	11	57	12	48	11	53	8	60	5	43	4
Mountain Home	--	--	4	10	3	12	4	5	3	6	4	7
North Magic Valley	78	12	78	15	56	7	76	7	98	6	92	7
Owyhee	23	29	25	28	27	20	30	13	30	14	29	18
Shoshone Basin	12	26	16	16	17	15	18	10	14	11	16	10
South Magic Valley	14	21	13	24	14	18	18	10	19	8	18	10
Upper Snake	93	23	98	24	112	24	113	19	123	15	119	15
West Central	14	24	14	25	14	10	14	8	14	8	14	11
Statewide	365	19	394	20	384	18	421	13	460	10	454	12

Table 4. Total number of males counted on leks routes that were counted each year in Idaho, 2005–2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	# of lek routes	Total Number of Males ^a					
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Big Desert	6	878	1,036	895	707	713	1,225
Challis	11	550	750	715	477	581	546
East Idaho Uplands	2	108	77	61	52	65	129
Greater Curlew Valley	4	226	231	203	167	160	173
Jarbridge	8	484	575	454	361	292	156
North Magic Valley	8	966	1,134	351	494	513	568
Owyhee	6	664	671	510	350	352	468
Shoshone Basin	1	306	260	256	184	147	162
South Magic Valley	2	292	298	211	131	140	155
Upper Snake	12	2,123	2,365	2,262	1,565	1,592	1,460
West Central	4	331	345	145	107	109	141
Statewide	64	6,928	7,742	6,063	4,595	4,664	5,186

^a Numbers cannot be compared among planning areas because there are different numbers of routes and different numbers of leks per route.

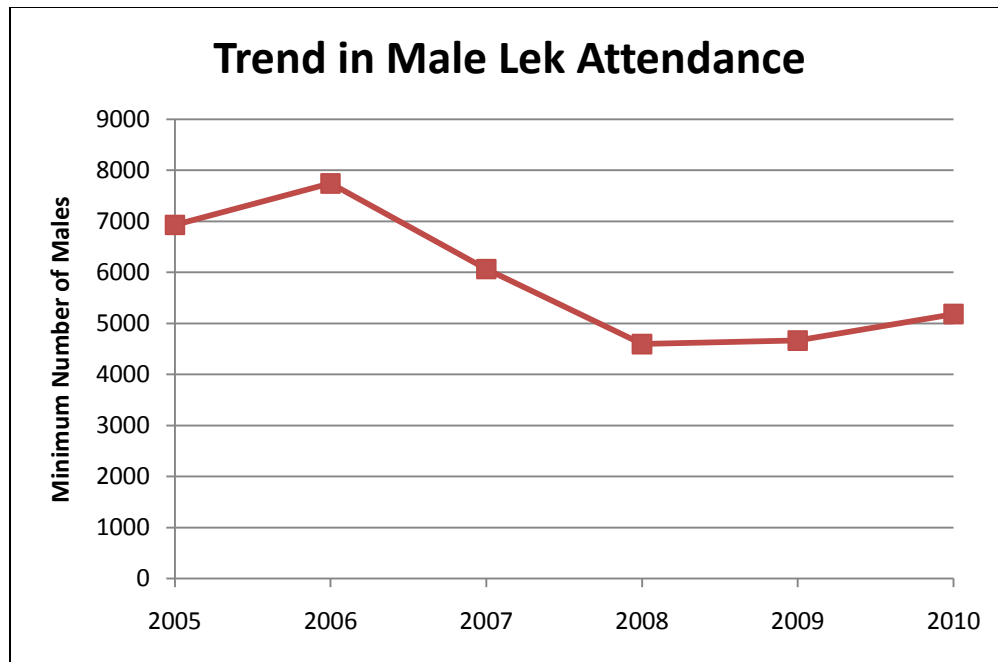


Figure 3. Idaho statewide trend in male lek attendance on 64 lek routes that were counted consistently 2005–2010.

Productivity

Sage-grouse productivity in an area can be estimated by examining wings left by hunters in wing barrels or at check stations. In 2006–2009, IDFG also gathered additional wings through a mail-in wing program. From 2006–2009, IDFG sent out 1,000 wing envelopes, specifically targeting areas in the state that usually had a small sample size of wings. In 2010, IDFG expanded the wing envelope program and sent 2,000 wing envelopes to known sage-grouse hunters.

By closely examining the shape, condition, length and color patterns on wing feathers, biologists are able to determine the bird's age, gender, and reproductive status of hens. However, it is important to note that statisticians recommend at least 100 females wings in an area to adequately assess productivity (Autenrieth et al. 1982); therefore, there are usually inadequate samples within each SGPA. Recent work in Oregon, however, demonstrated the number of wings needed is much larger, depending on the desired level of confidence and precision (Hagen and Loughin 2008). Traditionally, the North Magic Valley, Owyhee, and Upper Snake planning areas were the only areas with a significant number of wings to accurately determine productivity (Table 4). However, the North Magic Valley experienced a very large decline in the number of wings collected since 2007.

Productivity is reported as the number of chicks per hen. Sage-grouse hens lay an average of 6–7 eggs. Therefore, 'chicks per hen' represents the average number of chicks per hen alive during the hunting season in September and October. Connelly and Braun (1997) suggested that a ratio of ≥ 2.25 juveniles/hen in the fall should result in stable to increasing sage-grouse population. Statewide the average productivity was 2.09 chicks per hen in 2010, which was slightly above the previous 5-year's average of 1.81. Over the 6-year period, productivity statewide ranged from a high of 2.54 chicks per hen in 2005 to a low of 0.82 chicks per hen in 2007 (Table 5 and

Figure 4). Sage-grouse productivity is highly influenced by weather (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006).

Table 5. Sage-grouse productivity by Sage-grouse Planning Area, as determined by wing collections in Idaho, 2005–2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2005		2006		2007	
	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen
Big Desert	148	3.36	189	2.26	81	0.85 ^a
Challis	63	1.17 ^a	208	1.61	169	1.12
East Idaho Uplands	17	5.50 ^a	23	5.67 ^a	2	--
Greater Curlew Valley	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Jarbridge	123	2.68	100	1.36	81	0.78 ^a
Mountain Home	4	--	40	3.00 ^a	0	--
North Magic Valley	553	2.38	673	2.30	54	1.10 ^a
Owyhee	568	2.21	Closed	--	242	0.53
Shoshone Basin	171	2.80	146	1.93	157	0.44
South Magic Valley	2	--	0	--	16	0.36 ^a
Upper Snake	474	3.05	427	2.74	396	1.16
West Central	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Statewide	2,123	2.54	1,806	2.22	1,198	0.82

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2008		2009		2010	
	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen
Big Desert	126	1.64	72	3.46 ^a	141	2.76
Challis	160	1.00	62	1.88 ^a	76	1.26 ^a
East Idaho Uplands	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Greater Curlew Valley	2	--	5	--	8	--
Jarbridge	62	1.12 ^a	83	0.83 ^a	Closed	--
Mountain Home	0	--	0	--	0	--
North Magic Valley	60	1.82 ^a	83	2.83 ^a	209	2.43
Owyhee	365	1.08	511	2.04	148	1.41
Shoshone Basin	94	0.86 ^a	83	0.70 ^a	143	1.53
South Magic Valley	0	--	51	2.67 ^a	see Shoshone Basin ^c	
Upper Snake	998	1.84	1,193	2.17	495	2.31
West Central	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Statewide	1,867	1.48	2,143	2.00	1,240	2.09

^a Sample sizes too low for reliable productivity estimates. Results should be interpreted with caution.

^b Sage-grouse harvest and hunting seasons are discussed in the next section.

^c Shoshone Basin and South Magic Valley wing estimates were combined in 2010 with statewide wing envelope program.

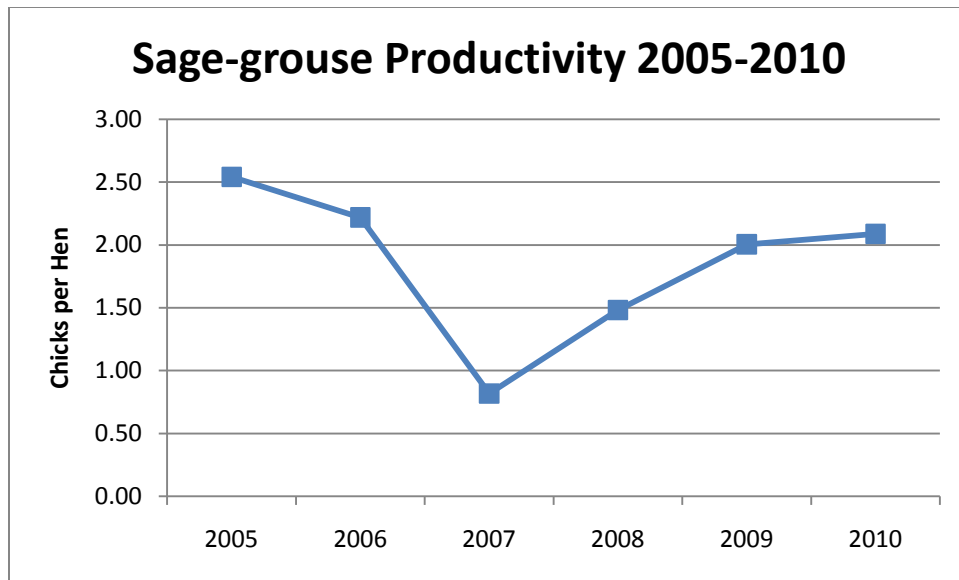


Figure 4. Sage-grouse productivity in Idaho, 2005–2010.

Harvest

Since 2008, IDFG has followed the hunting season and bag-limit guidelines in the 2006 State Plan (Table 6). In addition, IDFG set the sage-grouse hunting season in August, instead of in the spring when other game bird regulations are set. This allowed biologists sufficient time to analyze lek data and information regarding the season's wildfires and West Nile virus (WNV) impacts. IDFG summarized lek route data by Sage-grouse Reporting Zone, compared data with the guidelines, and made appropriate recommendations for hunting seasons and bag limits. These data were provided to IDFG regional staff and LWGs, who commented on the recommendations. The recommendations were brought forward to the IDFG Commission, who set the season structure in August. IDFG then published and distributed the *Sage-grouse Seasons and Rules 2010* leaflet (Appendix A). The major change in 2010 was a reduced season and bag limit in the Owyhee and Upper Snake SGPAs, resulting in a Restrictive season statewide.

IDFG estimates sage-grouse harvest by utilizing survey sampling in a mail-in and telephone survey of hunters who purchased a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation in that year. Harvest data are reported by sage-grouse reporting zones. Prior to 2009, the reporting zone boundaries only roughly corresponded to SGPAs (with some areas combined). In 2009, with input from LWGs, IDFG split some zones to better reflect current SGPA boundaries (Figure 5). Therefore, 2010 harvest estimates by SGPA are not directly comparable to previous years for the Big Desert, Challis, and Upper Snake planning areas. Statewide, hunters harvested an estimated 4,052 birds in 2010, which is less than the previous 5-years' average of 8,580 birds (Table 7).

Table 6. Idaho hunting season and bag-limit guidelines for sage-grouse populations.^a

Option	3-year running average of lek counts	Days	Daily Bag
Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 100 males observed Lek counts are less than 50% of 1996–2000 average counts Lek data are not gathered for population 	0	0
Restrictive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lek counts are between 50% and 150% of the 1996–2000 average 	7	1
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lek counts exceed 150% of the 1996–2000 average 	23	2

^aFrom Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006; Table 4-14, page 4-122.

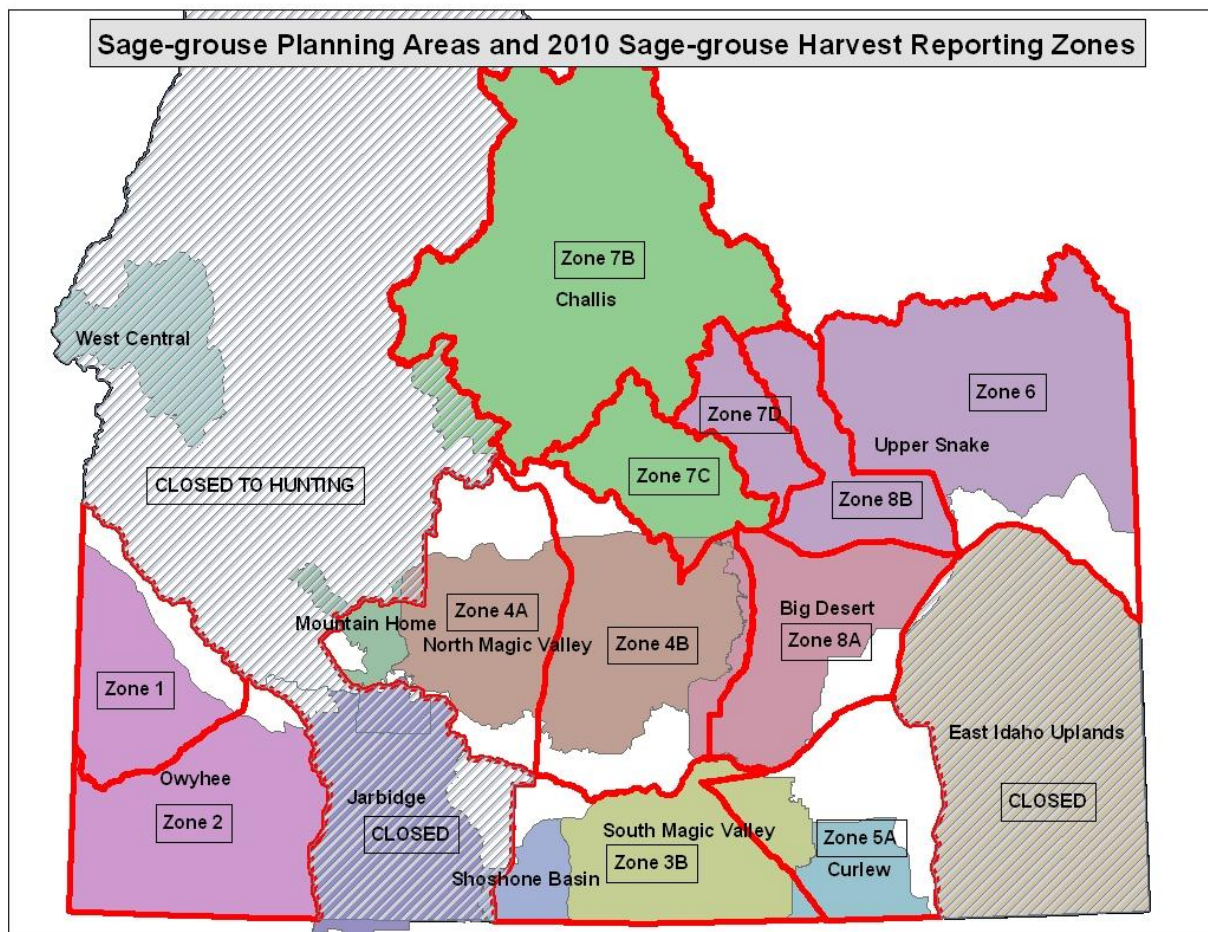


Figure 5. Sage-grouse Planning Areas and 2010 Sage-grouse Reporting Zones for harvest estimation.

Table 7. Estimated sage-grouse harvest and season structure by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2005–2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2005		2006		2007	
	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure ^a	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure
Big Desert	1,120	Restrictive	1,111	Restrictive	363	Restrictive
Challis	424	Conservative	1,024	Conservative	495	Conservative
East Idaho Uplands	403	Restrictive	397	Restrictive	264	Restrictive
Greater Curlew Valley	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Jarbridge	490	Restrictive	902	Restrictive	148	Restrictive ^c
Mountain Home & North Magic Valley	3,185	Conservative	4,389	Conservative	462	Restrictive
Owyhee	1,373	Both ^b	--	Closed ^c	610	Both ^b
Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley	1,001	Restrictive	1,116	Restrictive	676	Restrictive
Upper Snake	2,538	Restrictive	3,561	Restrictive	1,917	Restrictive
Unknown	3	NA	9	NA	0	NA
West Central	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Statewide	10,537		12,509		4,935	

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2008		2009		2010 ^f	
	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure
Big Desert	641	Restrictive	292 ^e	Restrictive	583	Restrictive
Challis	487	Conservative	357 ^e	Restrictive	361	Restrictive
East Idaho Uplands	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Greater Curlew Valley	209	Restrictive	48	Restrictive	164	Restrictive
Jarbridge	70	Restrictive ^c	210	Restrictive ^c	--	Closed
Mountain Home & North Magic Valley	264	Restrictive	343	Restrictive	579	Restrictive
Owyhee	897	Both ^b	1,000	Both ^b	386	Restrictive
Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley	439	Restrictive	471	Restrictive	507	Restrictive
Upper Snake	4,698	Conservative	4,475 ^e	Conservative	1,472	Restrictive
Unknown	19	NA	0	NA	0	NA
West Central	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Statewide	7,724		7,196		4,052	

^a Season structure: Restrictive = 7 day season, 1 bird daily bag limit; Conservative = 23 day season, 2 bird daily bag limit.

^b The Owyhee SGPA has a restrictive season in the northwest and a conservative season elsewhere (see Figure 5).

^c The 2006 sage-grouse hunting season was closed in western Owyhee County due to concerns of West Nile virus impacts on sage-grouse.

^d Western portion of the Jarbridge planning area (i.e., eastern Owyhee County) was closed due to the Murphy Complex Fire.

^e 2009 harvest estimates may not be comparable to previous years because of changes to reporting zone boundaries. Current changes more accurately capture SGPA boundaries (see Figure 5).

^f See Appendix A for 2010 hunting season and bag limit rules.

Sage-grouse Radio-telemetry Monitoring

There are currently 6 radio-telemetry projects ongoing in 6 SGPAs (Table 8). Five of these studies are being partially supported by grants from the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC). For many SGPAs, basic information on sage-grouse ecology, habitat use, and seasonal movements is lacking. Thus, LWGs and agency biologists are using radio-telemetry studies to gather such information. Resulting data will help LWGs develop their conservation plan and guide future conservation actions.

Table 8. Sage-grouse radio-telemetry studies by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho in 2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	# Birds	Purpose
Challis	9	Seasonal habitat use, lek route refinement
East Idaho Uplands	47	Determine location, habitat use, distribution, migration, possible population mixing, and population status of sage-grouse around Bear Lake
Jarbridge	42	Monitor sage-grouse response to Murphy Complex Fire, identify use of US Air Force properties, and identify areas of seasonal importance
Owyhee	15	West Nile virus monitoring
Upper Snake	11	Population demographics and habitat use
West Central	25	Determine seasonal habitat usage.

Sage-grouse Habitat

Wildfire

About 125,111 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2010 (Table 9). The largest fire was the 108,571 acre Jefferson Fire, which burned 63,901 acres of key habitat on the Idaho National Laboratory and adjacent BLM lands. Key habitat is defined as, “areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year including winter, spring, summer, late brood-rearing, fall transition sites from winter to spring, spring to summer, summer/fall to winter. Key habitat may or may not provide adequate nesting, early brood-rearing, and winter cover due to elevation, snow depth, lack of early season forbs, limited herbaceous cover, or small sagebrush patch size” (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). Burned areas occurring on public lands are often rehabilitated to sagebrush, grasses and/or forbs, as appropriate, and as funding allows.

Table 9. Number of acres of wildfire in key sage-grouse habitat by sage-grouse planning area and land ownership in Idaho, 2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Private	BLM ^a	USFS ^b	State	Other	Total
Big Desert	0	6	0	181	4,262	4,449
Challis	0	20	0	0	0	20
East Idaho Uplands	540	299	0	700 ^c	244	1,783
Greater Curlew Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jarbridge	20	19,062	0	872	6,965	26,918
Mountain Home	81	4,425	0	1,129	0	5,635
North Magic Valley	276	6,899	0	517	0	7,692
Owyhee	3	2,863	0	0	0	2,866
Shoshone Basin	6,088	4,230	0	919	0	11,237
South Magic Valley	2	110	0	140	0	252
Upper Snake	195	18,894	0	827	44,087	64,003
West Central	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	140	116	0	0	0	256
Total	7,345	56,924	0	5,285	55,558	125,111

^a Bureau of Land Management.

^b United States Forest Service.

^c 174 acres Idaho Department of Lands, 526 acres Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Acres of Sagebrush Converted

One task identified in the revised Chapter 6 of the State Plan was to begin to track acres of sagebrush converted to other uses by SGPA. In 2009, we added this request for information to the LWG Annual Report. Four LWGs reported that acres of sagebrush had been converted in their planning area in 2010. The Big Desert reported a loss of 140 acres of sagebrush that was converted to fuel breaks. The Upper Snake reported a loss of 73 acres of sagebrush converted to a multipurpose road. The East Idaho Upland LWG reported 500 acres of sagebrush was converted for annual cropping.

Other Threats to Sage-grouse Habitat

LWGs also reported on new and significant threats to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat in their planning areas (Table 10). Several electrical transmission lines projects are still being proposed and developed in Idaho; many LWGs reported these as threats in previous years. Proposed wind energy developments appear to be on the rise and are a concern to several SGPAs. Most LWGs and agency personnel are tracking potential projects in their area. Many LWGs said they would review and comment, if appropriate, on projects that are required to go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Table 10. New threats to sage-grouse habitat in Idaho, as reported by Local Working Groups and Sage-grouse Advisory Committee in 2010.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	New Threat	Area Affected
Big Desert	Bonneville County wind development	Unknown
East Idaho Uplands	Exploratory oil well in the Gray's Lake area	Unknown
East Idaho Uplands	Meadowcreek wind energy development	7,000 acres
East Idaho Uplands	South Rasmussen Valley phosphate mine	1,200 acres
East Idaho Uplands	UAMPS wind energy development	33 towers
East Idaho Uplands	Dairy Syncline phosphate mine	800 acres
Greater Curlew Valley	Highway realignment through the narrows	3 miles
Greater Curlew Valley	Gateway West transmission line project	Unknown
Greater Curlew Valley	Overland transmission line project	Unknown
Jarbridge	China Mountain Wind Project-Draft EIS released for public comment April 2011.	Proposed 30,700 acre right of way plus indirect effects
Upper Snake	Wind farm on INL (proposed)	100+ acres

Public Outreach and Field Tours

Several LWGs conducted public outreach, educational events, or field trips. These efforts are summarized in Table 11.

Table 11. Public outreach and field tours by sage-grouse Local Working Groups in Idaho in 2010.

Local Working Group	Public Outreach	Field Tours
Big Desert	Informational meeting for NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative (SGI)	June tour of the planning area, attending by 38 people. The itinerary included stops at the Aberdeen Research & Extension Center, Grandview Crested Wheatgrass Diversification Study location, Coffee Point, the Big Desert fuel breaks project, and the sagebrush seedling planting project.
Challis		SAC field tour of the South Carmen Grazing Allotment
East Idaho Uplands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDFG presented sage-grouse overview to Beef Schools in Blackfoot and Montpelier • April meeting to share information with the public about the NRCS SGI and funding opportunities under the USFWS • IDFG presented information at Bonneville Cattlemen luncheon on the Endangered Species Act and sage-grouse. 	Blackfoot CCAA field tour in September
Jarbidge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China Mountain Sage-grouse Conservation Plan presentation • NRCS presentations to local Soil Conservation District (SCD) Boards on group activities and progress • LWG outreach/coordination between Jarbidge and Owyhee LWGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June field tour of previous projects • June field trip for Western Agencies Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse workshop.
North Magic Valley		May field tour between Kimama and Carey to look at different range condition, learn about fire and rehabilitation history, and hear about different grazing regimes.

Table 11. Continued.

Local Working Group	Public Outreach	Field Tours
Shoshone Basin	A news article was published in early March describing the group's plan to expand their efforts on the west side of the planning unit. The article extended the group's invitation for the public to join in the new planning effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May field trip to familiarize new members with the planning area • Hosted Idaho Cattle Association summer field tour. Showed results of the east-side planning efforts and implementation of conservation measures in providing sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitats.
South Magic Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public information meeting in May • NRCS presentations • E & W Cassia Co. SCDs to promote NRCS SGI • Spring 2010 Burley BLM discussed sage-grouse lek locations with permittees to promote avoidance of displaying birds while completing project work during the lekking season. 	
Upper Snake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubois Grouse Days had 55 attendees in 2010, about half of which were new to the celebration • A kick-off meeting for the CCAA was hosted by the LWG to help provide information about that effort to the public and LWG members • An interpretive sign, paid for by the Dubois Grouse Days Committee, was installed at the Camas National Wildlife Refuge. 	Dubois Grouse Days conducted field tours of lekking grouse for interested parties as part of the planned events.
West Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited elected officials and other guests to June LWG meeting/BBQ to celebrate completion and signing of CCAA • Held annual summer BBQ • Wrote article for the SCD news about University of Idaho fieldwork for site-specific plans (distributed to 1,200+ people) 	Conducted field trip to view males on leks for 33 school students from Cambridge, Council and Midvale; discussed sage-grouse habitat and threats, careers in wildlife science, and native and invasive plants.

Status of OSC Grant Projects

From 2002–2006, 2008, and 2010 the OSC received funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for sage-grouse conservation in Idaho. This money has been used to fund SAC meetings, development of the 2006 plan, LWG facilitators, and most importantly, on-the-ground projects for sage-grouse. Grant money is available via an annual competitive grants program. LWGs and other interested parties or agencies are eligible to apply for funds. The SAC reviews and scores the proposals, following a grant review criteria. The SAC makes recommendations for funding to the IDFG Director and OSC Administrator, who have final approval.

To date, 122 projects have been funded, including 12 projects approved in 2010, which will be funded with the 2010 appropriation (Appendix B, Table 12, and Table 13). Most projects were for habitat improvement or inventory and monitoring. Inventory and monitoring projects included habitat inventory and mapping, sage-grouse lek surveys, and sage-grouse radio-telemetry projects. Projects in the “other” category included a landowner survey in Owyhee County, a buried power line, a lek mitigation project, and 2 fence-marking projects (Appendix B). Project proponents cancelled 7 projects, usually due to lack of additional or matching funding needed to implement the project.

Table 12. Summary of types of projects funded through the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2010.

Project Type	Number
Education	4
Equipment	2
Habitat	53
Inventory, monitoring, and research	51
Other	5
Cancelled	7
Total	122

Of the 53 habitat projects 47 are completed or in progress and the remaining 6 are planned for 2011 (Figure 5, Table 14, and Table 15). OSC grants have helped improve at least 31,567 acres for sage-grouse in Idaho. Another 9,510 acres of habitat improvement and 5 acres of spring fencing are planned for 2011. The types of habitat improvement projects included fire restoration; habitat improvements, including re-seeding with native grasses and forbs; sagebrush seedling planting; control of invasive plant species and noxious weeds; fuel breaks; and spring and wet meadow fencing to protect late brood-rearing habitat. The success of several of the fire restoration and habitat improvement projects are currently being monitored.

Table 13. 2010 approved projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

Grant #	Project Name	Applicant(s)	Summary
2010-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks III	Big Desert LWG & BLM	Develop fuel breaks by improving existing roads and roto-mowing the brush to 150 foot on each side of the road in order to help reduce the size of wildfires in the Big Desert. Developing and improving these fuel breaks will help suppression efforts and protect areas that have not previously burned.
2010-02	Rock Corral Allotment Sagebrush Seedling Plantings	Big Desert LWG & BLM	Re-establish a sagebrush seed source in those areas affected by past fire activity in the Big Desert Planning Area, specifically the Rock Corral Allotment.
2010-06	Aerial surveys for Sage-grouse Leks in the Gray's Lake Outlet in Bonneville and Bingham Counties	East Idaho Uplands LWG & IDFG	Search the designated area from April 1 to April 30 for sage-grouse lekking grounds.
2010-07	Antelope Pocket Dixie Harrow Part 2	Jarbridge LWG, IDFG, IDL	Use a Dixie harrow to reduce the amount of dead sagebrush and seed native forbs and grasses on 320 acres of IDL lands in an area historically used by sage-grouse.
2010-09	Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG, IDFG	Continue to reimburse lek survey volunteers for vehicle use/mileage.
2010-11	Owyhee Uplands Sage-grouse Habitat Enhancement: Controlling Western Juniper Encroachment in Brood Rearing Habitat	Owyhee LWG	Enhance 2,640 acres of sage-grouse brood rearing habitat by removing 2,640 acres of stage 1 and stage 2 junipers on 10 ranches in Owyhee County.
2010-12	Twin Spring/Three Mile Spring Fuel Break Maintenance	Shoshone Basin LWG, BLM	Maintain existing fuel break, which was constructed in 1990. The natural succession of shrubs within the fuel break has compromised its effectiveness.
2010-13	Rabbit Springs Riparian Improvement Project	Shoshone Basin LWG, BLM	Remove 5 existing livestock troughs from the riparian/wetland zone, fence spring, and exclude cattle from 5 acres.
2010-15	Upper Snake Wing Barrel Kiosks	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Construct, install, and check 12 upland bird wing barrel kiosks.
2010-18	Sage-grouse Habitat Use and Movements in the Mountain Home SGPA	IDFG, Mountain Home LWG	Capture, radio-collar, and monitor sage-grouse in the Mountain Home SGPA. This project will provide baseline data for the newest LWG.
2010-20	Assessing the Dietary Quality of Sagebrush in Sage-grouse Winter and Breeding Habitats	BSU, IDFG, North Magic Valley LWG	Identify the nutritional importance of difference sagebrush species in the sage-grouse diet and determine how diet quality influences the reproductive success of sage-grouse.
2010-22	WCLWG Sage-grouse Investigations	West Central LWG, IDFG	Continue sage-grouse radio-telemetry project to monitor sage-grouse movements, while expanding to the west side of the planning area.

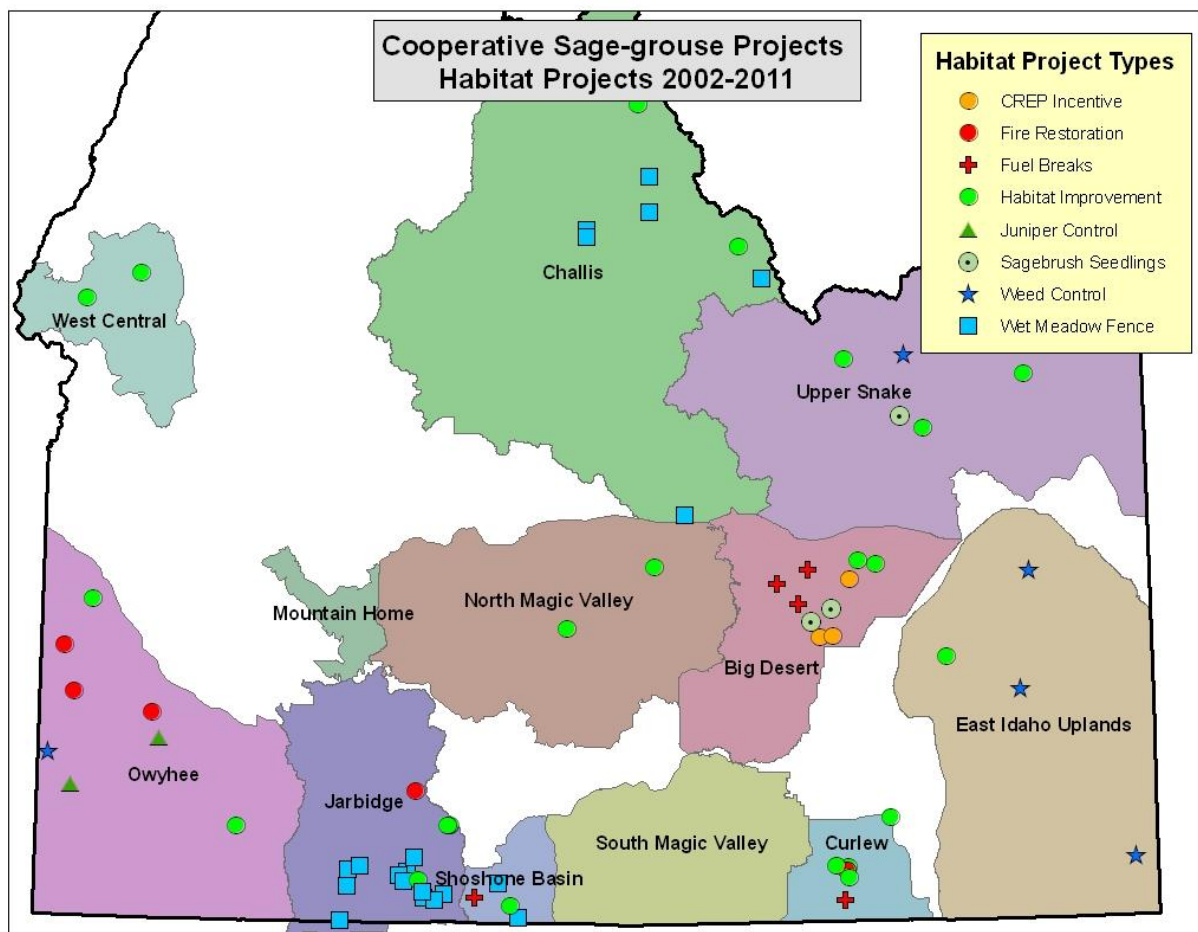


Figure 5. Location and types of sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2010. Includes projects scheduled for 2011.

Table 14. Summary of completed, in progress, and planned sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011.

Project Type	Completed/in progress		Planned for 2011	
	Number of Individual Projects ^a	Total Treatment Acres	Number of Individual Projects	Planned Treatment Acres
CREP Incentive ^b	3	758	0	0
Fire restoration	5	3,399	0	0
Fuel breaks	3	4,175	2	2,550
Habitat improvement	21	13,488	2	2,320
Juniper control	2	300	1+	4,640
Spring/wet meadow fencing	17	151	1	5
Weed control	Many	9,296	0	0
Total	51+	31,567	6+	9,515

^a May include >1 individual project per OSC Grant (e.g., wet meadow fences and NAGP projects).

^b Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP) incentive to seed sagebrush.

Table 15. Sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2010. Includes projects scheduled to begin in 2011^a.

Grant Number	Project Title	Sage-grouse Planning Area	Type of Project	Treatment Acres	Land Ownership	Sage-grouse Seasonal Habitat
2002-03 ^b	Basin Cutoff and Rayburn Springs	Shoshone Basin	Habitat improvement, reseed	250	BLM	Nesting & early brood
2002-03 ^b	Rayburn Springs	Shoshone Basin	Spring/wet meadow fencing	8	BLM	Late summer brood
2002-04	Jarbidge Fence Projects	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 ^c	BLM, private	Late summer brood
2002-05	Flint Creek Habitat Rehab	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	500	Private	Nesting & early brood
2002-07	Horse Springs Fence	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 ^c	BLM	Late summer brood
2003-02	Grouse Habitat Restoration Fund	Any	Provide seed	see 2004-20	Private	All
2003-04	Antelope Pocket Habitat	Jarbidge	Habitat improvement, reseed	320	State	Nesting & early brood
2003-05	Crooked Creek Ranch Riparian	Upper Snake	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	10	TNC	Late summer brood
2004-02	Bluebird Mine	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	10	Private	Nesting & early brood
2004-03	Crab Creek Meadow	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	see 2005-03	Private	Late summer brood
2004-04	IDL E. Idaho, Old Farm & Tilden	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement, reseed	630	State	All
2004-06	Nalder CRP Habitat Project	Curlew	Habitat improvement, reseed	53	Private	Nesting & early brood
2004-07	Spencer Weed Initiative #1	Upper Snake	Weed control	see 2005-08	Various	All
2004-09	Highland CWMA	East Idaho Uplands	Weed control	810	Various	All
2004-10	Ryegrass Habitat Project	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	4.4	State	Late summer brood
2004-14	Continuation of habitat projects	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 ^c	BLM, private	All
2004-20	Grouse Habitat Restoration Fund	Any	Provide seed	1,020 to date	Private	All
2005-03	Crab Creek Meadow #2	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	40	Private	Late summer brood
2005-05	Reynolds Creek Habitat	Owyhee	Weed control	7	Private	Nesting & early brood
2005-06	Jordan Valley CWMA	Owyhee	Weed control	see 2006-15	Private	All
2005-07	Hammond Canyon Project	Upper Snake	Spring/wet meadow fencing	10	BLM	Late summer brood
2005-08	Spencer Weed Initiative #2	Upper Snake	Weed control	3,479	Various	All
2005-10	Clear Hixon Project	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	9	BLM, state	Late summer brood
2005-15	Lava Lakes Riparian	North Magic Valley	Riparian and upland restoration	268	Private	Brood
2005-17	IDL Clover Fire Restoration	Jarbidge	Reseed following fire	640	State	Nesting & early brood
2005-21	Jarbidge Habitat Improvement	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	113.5 ^c	BLM, private	Late summer brood
2006-01	Sands HMA Treatments	Upper Snake	Prescribed fire and chemical control	650	Various	All
2006-04	Chubby Spain	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	2,174	Private	All
2006-06	Nalder Fire Restoration	Curlew	Reseed following fire	75	Private	All
2006-07	Curlew Green Strips	Curlew	Fuel breaks	22	USFS	All
2006-08	CREP Incentive	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, reseed	758	Private	All

Table 15. Continued.

Grant Number	Project Title	Sage-grouse Planning Area	Type of Project	Treatment Acres	Land Ownership	Sage-grouse Seasonal Habitat
2006-10	Devil Creek Ranch	Jarbridge	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	35	Private	Late summer brood
2006-15	Whitetop Control/CWMA	Owyhee	Weed control	5,000	Private	All
2007-06	Owyhee Juniper Mastication	Owyhee	Juniper control	300	Private	All
2007-07	Camas NWR Habitat Restoration	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement; education	20	USFWS	Nesting & early brood
2007-08	Thousand Springs Ranch	West Central	Habitat improvement, reseed	25	Private	Nesting & early brood
2007-09	Magpie and Larkspur Exclosures	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	1.5	BLM	Late summer brood
2007-10	Curlew Experimental Plantings	Curlew	Habitat improvement, seedlings	25	USFS	Nesting & early brood
2007-11	Cottonwood Pasture	Challis	Habitat improvement, fencing	1,200	BLM	All
2007-12	Leadville Allotment Rehab	Challis	Habitat improvement, reseed	2,620	Various	All
2008-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	2,150	BLM, private	All
2008-03	Big Desert Sagebrush Seedlings	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, seedlings	5,000	BLM	All
2008-06	South Baldy Riparian Exclosure	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	7	BLM	Late summer brood
2008-10	South Magic Fire Restoration	South Magic Valley	Reseed following fire	480	Private	Nesting & early brood
2008-12	SS Cattle Company Brush Mgmt.	West Central	Habitat improvement, reseed	96.5	Private	Nesting & early brood
2008-21 ^e	Lava Lakes Riparian	North Magic	Riparian and upland restoration	see 2005-15	Private	Brood
2009-07	Big Desert Fuel Breaks II	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	2,003	BLM, Private	All
2009-13	Table Butte Habitat Rehab	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement, seedlings	1,200	BLM	Winter, breeding
2010-01 ^d	Big Desert Fuel Breaks III	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	2,000	BLM	All
2010-02 ^d	Rock Corral Sagebrush Seedlings	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, seedlings	2,000	BLM	All
2010-07 ^d	Antelope Pocket II	Jarbridge	Habitat improvement, reseed	320	IDL	Nesting & early brood
2010-11 ^d	Owyhee Juniper Mastication II	Owyhee	Juniper control	4,640	Private	Nesting & brood
2010-12 ^d	Twin Spr./3 Mile Spr. Fuel Break	Shoshone Basin	Fuel break	550	Various	All
2010-13 ^d	Rabbit Springs Riparian Improve.	Shoshone Basin	Spring/Riparian fencing	5	BLM	Late summer brood

^a Table acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CREP = Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Cooperative Weed Management Area; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; TNC = The Nature Conservancy; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

^b Same grant captured 2 different projects.

^c 11 springs and wet meadows were fenced under 4 grants to the Jarbridge Local Working Group, for a total of 113.5 acres.

^d Projects scheduled to begin in 2011.

^e Funded through small grants program.

Other Sage-grouse Projects

LWGs reported on 111 other projects in their planning areas that may or were targeted to benefit sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat (Appendix C). Although we do not believe this list is complete or precise, it does represent a significant level of sage-grouse conservation in Idaho.

Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks

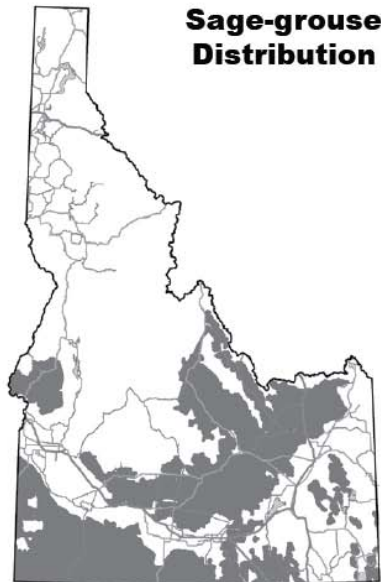
The SAC approved a revised Implementation Chapter (Chapter 6) of the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* in October 2009. The revised Chapter 6 is a 5-year implementation plan that outlines specific tasks and responsible parties, past accomplishments towards those tasks, and target deadlines. Task 6.2.5 specifies that the LWG Annual Report also track Chapter 6 accomplishments.

We identified all Chapter 6 tasks with a 2010 target deadline and asked the responsible parties, including LWGs, to review and report accomplishments towards those tasks. If available, they were also asked to include any information on local projects implemented by other responsible parties (e.g., IDFG or BLM). Accomplishments towards these tasks are reported in Appendix D.

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APPENDIX A: Outside of *Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2010* Leaflet.



**Sage-grouse
Distribution**



Sage-grouse Seasons and Rules 2010

**Sage-grouse seasons open
September 18**

Seven-day season, one-bird limit:

Statewide in sage-grouse range **except** designated closed areas.

Closed:

- Eastern Owyhee County and western Twin Falls County
- Southeastern part of the state, east of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 26
- Washington County and Adams County

Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage- or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession a valid hunting license with a sage/ sharp-tailed grouse permit validation at \$4.75.

Identify Your Target! Is it a Sage-grouse or a Sharp-tailed Grouse?

Note: Sharp-tailed grouse have recently been introduced into historical range in southern Twin Falls County and southeastern Owyhee County. Twin Falls County, Owyhee County and most of Cassia County are closed to the hunting of sharp-tailed grouse. Sharp-tailed grouse also occur around Split Butte in Minidoka County. Hunting of sharp-tailed grouse is closed in Minidoka County. Be sure of your target!

Sage-grouse

This native grouse is widely distributed in areas with large blocks of sagebrush habitat throughout southern Idaho. Sagebrush is a crucial winter food for sage-grouse and also provides them with nesting and roosting cover during the rest of the year. Wet places, including agricultural lands, are important feeding areas for hens with chicks and are heavily used by sage-grouse during the fall in dry years.

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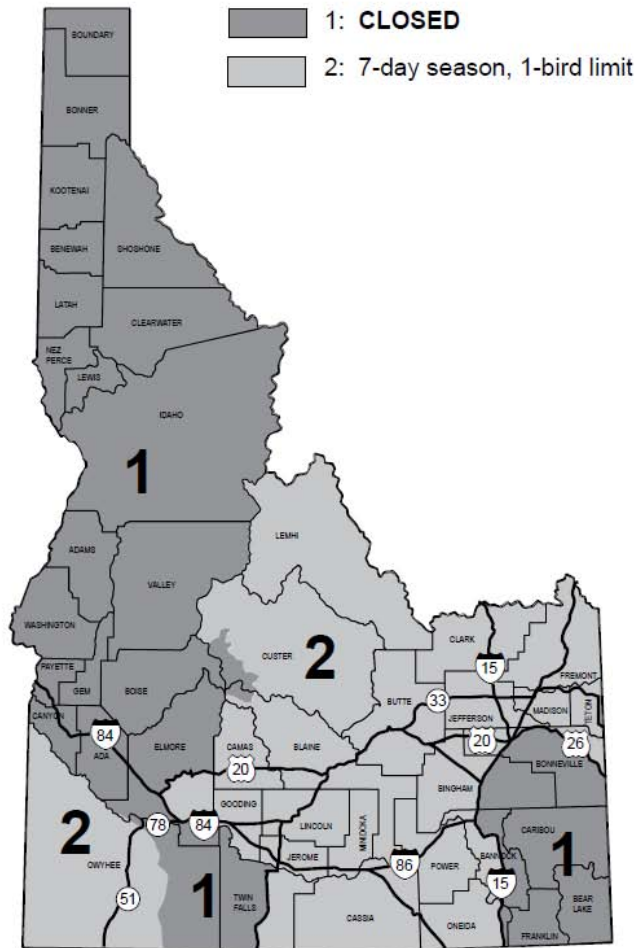
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See inside for details.

Refer to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Upland Game, Furbearer and Turkey Seasons and Rules for general upland gamebird rules, license and permit information.



Appendix A, Continued: Inside of *Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2010* Leaflet.



Area Boundary Descriptions

Area 1

- All parts of the state **not** included in Area 2; closed.

Area 2

2010 Season: Sept. 18 through Sept. 24

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 2

- Butte, Camas, Cassia, Clark, Fremont, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Power and Teton counties
- Bannock County west of Interstate 15
- Bingham County west of Interstate 15
- Blaine County, **except** within the Salmon River drainage
- Bonneville County west of Interstate 15 and north of U.S. Highway 26
- Custer County, **except** within the Salmon River drainage upstream from and including Valley Creek
- Elmore County south and east of U.S. Highway 20 and north of Interstate 84
- Oneida County west of Interstate 15
- Owyhee County west of the Bruneau River
- Twin Falls County east of U.S. Highway 93

Wings collected from harvested birds provide important biological data. If you see a wing barrel, please deposit one wing from each bird you harvest. We also collect wings at check stations and through a mail-in wing survey.

APPENDIX B: Sage-grouse grants from the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2010^a.

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
2002-01	Upper Snake Habitat Mapping	NAGP	Inventory & monitoring
2002-02	Crooked Creek Ranch	NAGP	Inventory & monitoring
2002-03	Rayburn Springs and Basin Cutoff	Shoshone Basin LWG	Habitat
2002-04	Jarbridge Fence Projects	Jarbridge LWG	Habitat
2002-05	Flint Creek Habitat rehab	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2002-07	Horse Springs Fence	Jarbridge LWG	Habitat
2002-08	Landowner Survey	Owyhee LWG	Other
2002-09	Dubois Grouse Days	Upper Snake LWG	Education
2002-10	Jarbridge Winter Range Survey	Jarbridge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-01	Lek Surveys	Shoshone Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2003-02	Reserve Seed Bank	NAGP	Habitat
2003-03	Upper Snake Habitat Mapping	NAGP	Inventory & monitoring
2003-04	Antelope Pocket Habitat	Jarbridge LWG	Habitat
2003-05	Crooked Creek Ranch Riparian	NAGP	Habitat
2003-06	Challis Data Compilation	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-07	Curlew Telemetry	Curlew LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-08	Jarbridge Lek Survey	Jarbridge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-09	Owyhee Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-10	Jarbridge Winter Range Survey	Jarbridge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-01	Dubois Grouse Days	Upper Snake LWG	Education
2004-02	Bluebird Mine	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2004-03	Crab Creek Meadow	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2004-04	IDL E. Idaho	Idaho Dept of Lands	Habitat
2004-05	Upper Snake Seed Drill	Upper Snake LWG	Equipment
2004-06	Nalder CRP Habitat Project	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2004-07	Spencer Weed Control	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2004-08	Shoshone Basin Mapping	Shoshone Basin LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-09	Highland CWMA	Caribou National Forest	Habitat
2004-10	Ryegrass Habitat Project	Challis LWG	Habitat
2004-11	Pahsimeroi Telemetry	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-12	West Central Telemetry	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-13	Clover Crossing	Jarbridge LWG	CANCELLED
2004-14	Continuation of Habitat projects	Jarbridge LWG	Habitat
2004-15	Owyhee Lek Surveys	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-16	IDL bird ladders	Owyhee LWG	CANCELLED
2004-17	Jack's Creek Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
2004-18	Big Springs Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-19	Curlew Telemetry	Curlew LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-20	Reserve Seed Bank	NAGP	Habitat
2004-21	2005 Dubois Grouse Days	NAGP	Education
2005-02	Duck Valley Telemetry	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2005-03	Crab Creek Meadow #2	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2005-04	West Central Telemetry #2	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-05	Reynolds Creek Habitat	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2005-06	Jordan Valley CWMA	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2005-07	Hammond Canyon Project	BLM, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife	Habitat
2005-08	Spencer Weed Initiative #2	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2005-09	2006 Dubois Grouse Days	NAGP	Education
2005-10	Clear Hixon Project	Challis LWG	Habitat
2005-11	Medicine Lodge Habitat	Upper Snake LWG	CANCELLED
2005-12	Bell Rapids Transects	IDFG, BLM	Inventory & monitoring
2005-13	Pahsimeroi Telemetry #2	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-14	Curlew Telemetry #2	Curlew LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-15	Lava Lakes Riparian	Lava Lake Land & Livestock	Habitat
2005-16	S. Magic Valley Telemetry	IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-17	IDL Clover Fire Restoration	IDL, Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2005-18	Magic Valley SG Technician	Jarbidge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-19	Shoshone Basin Habitat Mapping	Shoshone Basin LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-20	Owyhee County Lek surveys	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-21	Jarbidge Habitat Improvement	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2006-01	Sands HMA Treatments	BLM	Habitat
2006-02	Berry Creek Burn	USFS	CANCELLED
2006-03	Sorensen	Birch Creek Ranch	CANCELLED
2006-04	Chubby Spain	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2006-05	WNv Monitoring	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2006-06	Nalder Fire Restoration	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2006-07	Green Strips	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2006-08	CREP Incentive	IDFG	Habitat
2006-09	Jarbidge Dixie Harrow	Jarbidge LWG	Equipment
2006-10	Devil Creek Ranch	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2006-11	Duck Valley Lek Survey	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2006-12	Jarbidge Artificial Wetland	Jarbidge LWG	CANCELLED
2006-13	West Central Telemetry	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2006-15	Big Springs Whitetop Control	Owyhee LWG	Habitat

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
2006-16	Small, ID Buried Powerline	Upper Snake LWG	Other
2007-02	West Central Studies	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2007-03	DVIR WNV Monitoring	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2007-04	Owyhee County WNV Monitoring	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2007-05	Curlew Aerial Habitat Mapping	Curlew LWG and USFS	Inventory & monitoring
2007-06	Owyhee Juniper Mastication	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2007-07	Camas NWR Habitat Restoration	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2007-08	Thousand Springs Ranch Habitat Restoration	Thousand Springs Ranch	Habitat
2007-09	Magpie and Larkspur Exclosures	Challis LWG	Habitat
2007-10	Curlew Experimental Plantings	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2007-11	Cottonwood Pasture Habitat Improvement Fence	Challis LWG	Habitat
2007-12	Leadville Allotment Rehabilitation	Challis LWG	Habitat
2007-13	Camas Co. Fence Marking	North Magic Valley LWG	NOT FUNDED
2008-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2008-02	Big Desert Lek Search	Big Desert LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-03	Big Desert Sagebrush Seedling Plantings	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2008-06	South Baldy Riparian Exclosure	Challis LWG	Habitat
2008-07	East Idaho Uplands Sage-grouse Telemetry	East Idaho Uplands LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-08	Lek Search and Documentation	East Idaho Uplands LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-09	Curlew Fence Flagging Project	Curlew LWG	Other
2008-10	South Magic Post-fire Restoration	South Magic LWG	FUNDED WITH OTHER SOURCES
2008-11	Seasonal Movements and Distribution of Sage-grouse	South Magic LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-12	SS Cattle Company Brush Management	SS Cattle Co/West Central LWG	Habitat
2008-13	Upper Snake Fence Marking	Upper Snake LWG/BLM	Other
2008-15	A2 Highway Lek Identification and Mitigation	Upper Snake LWG	Other
2008-16	Sage-grouse Brood Habitat Study	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-17	Square Lake Fencing Project	Wood River Land Trust	CANCELLED
2008-18	Reimbursement for Private Vehicle Use by Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-19	Post Murphy Fire Sage-grouse Investigations	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
2008-21	Lower Copper Creek Riparian and Upland Restoration	Lava Lake Land & Livestock	Habitat
2009-02	Habitat Use and Quality of Winter Sage-grouse Diets	West Central LWG and Boise State University	Inventory & monitoring
2009-04	Impacts of WNV on Sage-grouse in Owyhee County	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2009-05	Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG and IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2009-07	Big Desert Road Grading and Fuel Breaks	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2009-09	Big Desert Lek Search and Surveys	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2009-11	Raven Population Management in Relation to Anthropogenic Resource Subsidies in Southeastern Idaho	Curlew LWG and U.S. Geological Survey	Inventory & monitoring
2009-12	Sage-grouse Movements and Home Range Delineation in East Idaho Uplands Planning Area	East Idaho Uplands LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2009-13	Sage-grouse Habitat Rehabilitation at Table Butte	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2010-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks III	Big Desert LWG & BLM	Habitat
2010-02	Rock Corral Allotment Sagebrush Seedling Plantings	Big Desert LWG & BLM	Habitat
2010-06	Aerial surveys for Sage-grouse Leks in the Gray's Lake Outlet in Bonneville and Bingham Counties	East Idaho Uplands LWG & IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-07	Antelope Pocket Dixie Harrow Part 2	Jarbidge LWG, IDFG, IDL	Habitat
2010-09	Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-11	Owyhee Uplands Sage-grouse Habitat Enhancement: Controlling Western Juniper Encroachment in Brood Rearing Habitat	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2010-12	Twin Spring/Three Mile Spring Fuel Break Maintenance	Shoshone Basin LWG, BLM	Habitat
2010-13	Rabbit Springs Riparian Improvement Project	Shoshone Basin LWG, BLM	Habitat
2010-15	Upper Snake Wing Barrel Kiosks	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-18	Sage-grouse Habitat Use and Movements in the Mountain Home SGPA	IDFG, Mountain Home LWG	Inventory & monitoring

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
2010-20	Assessing the Dietary Quality of Sagebrush in Sage-grouse Winter and Breeding Habitats	BSU, IDFG, North Magic Valley LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-22	WCLWG Sage-grouse Investigations	West Central LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring

^a Table acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CREP = Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Cooperative Weed Management Area; DVIR = Duck Valley Indian Reservation; IDFG = Idaho Department of Fish and Game; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; LWG = Local Working Group; NAGP = North American Grouse Partnership; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WNV = West Nile virus.

APPENDIX C. Other sage-grouse projects not funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, as reported by Local Working Groups and Sage-grouse Advisory Committee^a.

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Statewide	Sage-grouse Data Coordination	Data Coordination	Funding to IDFG for sage-grouse data management	BLM, IDFG		All	Ongoing-annual	Ongoing
Statewide	Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration Coordinator	Restoration Planning	Funding to IDFG for sage-grouse restoration coordinator position	BLM, IDFG		All	Ongoing-annual	Ongoing
Statewide	Sage-grouse SAC Facilitation	Facilitation of SAC meetings	Funding to OSC for sage-grouse SAC facilitation	BLM \$20,000		All	Ongoing-annual	
Statewide	Tall Structures (fence collision) study	Research	M.S. research examining sage-grouse fence collision and risk factors	BLM/IDFG funded in 2008-2010		BLM	2008	2011 Thesis to be completed
Big Desert	Baldy Knoll	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	70	Private	2006	2011
Big Desert	Big Desert	Other	Developed livestock watering systems to avoid impacts to grouse due to current water hauling during lek and nesting period.	NRCS(SGI)/Private	2,000	BLM	2010	2012
Big Desert	Fall Creek	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/Private	1,007	Private	2007	Continuing
Big Desert	Idaho National Laboratory Weed Control	Weed control		DOE-ID	12.3 acres	DOE	April 1, 2010	November 1, 2010
Big Desert	Lake Channel	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	1,500	Private	2010	Continuing
Big Desert	Minidoka Fuel Breaks	Fuel breaks	Forage kochia fuel breaks 200 feet wide	BLM Fuels	577	BLM	Phase I 9/09 Phase II 10/10	Phase I 11/09 Phase II 11/10
Big Desert	North Minidoka Restoration	Habitat restoration	Spray and seed for herbaceous and sagebrush	BLM Fuels, BLM ESR, and Idaho	12,087	BLM	10/10	11/10

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
				Watershed Funds				
Big Desert	Seventy Creek area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/ Private	26	Private	2006	2012
Big Desert	Tilden Flat Sagebrush Seedlings	Sagebrush seedlings	Sagebrush seedlings were planted in 9 blocks in an area previously impacted by wildfire	IDL/IDFG	51.8	Idaho Department of Lands	April 2010	June 2010, with additional monitoring of seedling survival planned for May/June 2011
Challis	Antelope Creek area	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in about 10 acres of riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/ Private	6,764	Private	2004	Continuing
Challis	Big Lost River- Warm Springs Creek area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Change in land management to delaying haying primarily adjacent to riparian area.	NRCS/ Private	500	Private	2005	2014
Challis	Chicken Creek area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/ Private	11,300	Private	2005	Continuing
Challis	Cold Springs-Warm Springs area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting leafy spurge).	NRCS/ Private	1,500	Private	2005	2014
Challis	Condon Springs area	Habitat Improvement	Range planting, extensive weed management (chemical), and altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat. Significant improvement to wet meadows with short duration grazing management and weed management (chemical).	NRCS/ Private	280	Private	March	Continuing
Challis	Hayden Creek area	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on	NRCS/ Private	7	Private	2006	2012

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			improving herbaceous vegetation in riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian.					
Challis	Kriley Gulch	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	92	Private	2008	ongoing
Challis	Mill Creek area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation and fencing to protect spring area.	NRCS/Private	320	Private	2007	2013
Challis	Nichols Reservoir area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	31000	Private	2004	2011
Challis	Sage-grouse Assessments	Sage-grouse monitoring	Used Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework to assess allotments within the Challis Field Office and monitored leks.	One time Sagebrush & Grassland Conservation fund	249,483	BLM and state	3/15/10	9/15/10
East Idaho Uplands	18 Mile Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	527.7	Private	2010	2013
East Idaho Uplands	Along Blackfoot River	Habitat Improvement and management	New permanent 728 acre easement (from grazing and development). Chemical weed control completed to improve vegetation; primarily treated thistle species.	NRCS/Private	142	Private	2007	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Arbon Valley/Bannock Creek area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	Private	2,000	Private	2010	permanent
East Idaho Uplands	area east of Willow Creek	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management on rangeland adjacent to CRP with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in spring area, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/Private	550	Private	2006	Continuing
East Idaho Uplands	Area South of Georgetown	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management through mechanical means, primarily targeting thistle species.	NRCS/Private	810	Private	2005	2012

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
East Idaho Uplands	Beaverdam area	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	235	Private	2008	2010
East Idaho Uplands	Bone Road 1 area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	125	Private	2010	2012
East Idaho Uplands	Brush Creek area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	580	Private/IDL	2007	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Cow Camp area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	299.2	Private	2010	Continuing
East Idaho Uplands	Diamond Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting houndstongue and thistle species).	NRCS/Private	1,600	Private	2006	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Eight Mile Creek area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting houndstongue, toadflax, knapweed, and thistle species).	NRCS/Private	370	Private	2005	2010
East Idaho Uplands	Fencing of Blackfoot River	Riparian protection	BLM land along the Blackfoot River will be fenced to exclude livestock	BLM	1,500	BLM	2010	2011
East Idaho Uplands	Foothills west of Burns	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management, using only mechanical means to control primarily dyer's woad and thistle species.	NRCS/Private	227	Private	2007	On-going more fence to be built in 2011
East Idaho Uplands	Gray's Lake Outlet area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	3,300	Private	2007	2010
East Idaho Uplands	Henry Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	483	Private	2010	Continuing
East Idaho Uplands	King Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	330	Private	2008	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Lund Road area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	238.5	Private	2010	2013

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
East Idaho Uplands	MDI Forb Planting	Planting forb food plots to benefit mule deer and other wildlife	Planting mixed forbs and grass to into prepared plots in CRP	IDFG – License and PR	1,260 acres of forbs planted	Private CRP and State Lands	Spring 2010	2021
East Idaho Uplands	MDI Mountain Shrub Seedling Planting	Planting Mt. shrub seedlings to benefit mule deer and other wildlife.	Planted 131,000 Mt. Big Sagebrush - Antelope Bitterbrush Seedlings in CRP and Public Land	IDFG – License and PR	630 acres of seedlings planted	BLM, IDFG, and Private	Spring 2010	Spring 2011
East Idaho Uplands	Meadow Creek (Ririe Reservoir) area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting houndstongue and thistle species).	NRCS/ Private	50	Private	2008	Spring 2010
East Idaho Uplands	Meadow Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA- CRP/Private	284	Private	2010	2012
East Idaho Uplands	Mill Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA- CRP/Private	478.1	Private	2010	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Miner Creek area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/ Private	1,700	Private	2007	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Molly's Place area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/ Private	1,400	Private/IDL	2007	Continuing
East Idaho Uplands	Pearl Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Chemical weed management targeting thistle species.	NRCS/ Private	166	Private	2004	Continuing
East Idaho Uplands	Sheep Mountain area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/ Private	556	Private/IDL	2007	2010
East Idaho Uplands	Skyline Ridge area	Habitat Improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/ Private	4,000	private/BL M	2009	2016
East Idaho Uplands	Slug Creek area	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management.	NRCS/ Private	2,205.00	Private	2006	Continuing
East Idaho Uplands	Soda Springs Hills	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and	USDA- CRP/Private	439.4	Private	2010	2013

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			shrubs to benefit wildlife.					
East Idaho Uplands	South Bonneville area	Habitat Improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	2211	Private	2010	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Upper Fish Creek	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	238.6	Private	2010	2014
East Idaho Uplands	Washboards	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	141.4	Private	2010	2021
East Idaho Uplands	Willow Creek area	Habitat improvement and management	New permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	420	Private	2010	2021
Greater Curlew Valley	Buist area	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	303.8	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	Curlew Valley	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	293.4	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	East Arbon	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	305.1	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	Holbrook North	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	448.3	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	Holbrook Substation	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	37.2	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	Lookout Mt	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/private	500	Private	2009	2019
Greater Curlew Valley	Lookout Mt	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/private	500	Private	2009	2019
Greater Curlew Valley	Lower Pocatello Valley	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	239.1	Private	2010	2020

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Greater Curlew Valley	Meadows	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	122.4	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	North Meadows	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	327.8	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	South Arbon Valley area	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management with marking fences and installing perch deterrents.	NRCS SGI/private	323	Private	2010	2013
Greater Curlew Valley	Sublette Canyon area	Habitat improvement and management	New permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS GRP/private	2500	Private	2010	Permanent
Greater Curlew Valley	West Pocatello Valley	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	133.7	Private	2010	2020
Greater Curlew Valley	White Valley	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-FSA/NRCS CRP/Private	470	Private	2010	2020
Jarbridge	none	Fencing construction	Install fencing to enhance grazing management plan to keep cattle out of riparian area	SGI	1,280	Private	Sept 2010	Sept 2010 (plus 3 yrs prescribed grazing)
Jarbridge	Cheat Grass control	Cheat grass control using Plateau at Saylor Crk. Range		USAF	3,300 acres	USAF	Oct 1, 2010	Oct 20, 2010
Jarbridge	Black Butte Fire rehab	Rehab	Drill seeding to rehab the Black Butte Fire area	USAF	1,000 acres	USAF	Nov 2010	One week
Jarbridge	BLM rehab	Fire rehabilitation	North of China Crk	BLM	1,700	BLM	Nov 2010	Nov 2010
Jarbridge	BLM rehab	Fire rehabilitation	Six fires in north end of Field Office, including Long Butte Fire	BLM	300,000	BLM	Nov 2010	Nov 2013
Jarbridge	Shrub seedling planting	Shrub seedling planting; including sage, bitterbrush	Various locations in middle of Field Office	BLM	10,000	BLM	April 2010	May 2010
Jarbridge	Browns Bench Area	Habitat improvement and management	Range planting altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat. Significant improvement to several wet meadows by installing	NRCS/Private	6,250	Private/BLM	2009	2013

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			off-site stock water systems and fence installation to facilitate short grazing duration					
Jarbridge	House Creek	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management through fence installation to reduce grazing pressure on House Creek riparian zone while marking fences and installing perch deterrents.	NRCS-SGI/Private	2,720	Private	2010	2013
Jarbridge	Little House Creek	Habitat improvement and management	Altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat. Significant improvement to several wet meadows by installing off-site stock water systems and fence installation to facilitate short grazing duration.	NRCS/Private	5,200	Private/BLM	2009	2013
Jarbridge	17 mile Road area	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management through fence installation and expanding current stock water system.	NRCS/Private	2,400	Private/BLM	2007	2011
North Magic Valley	CRP on Camas Prairie	Habitat Improvement and Management	Enrolled 13 new Conservation Reserve Program contracts which include with planting seedings including sagebrush.	USDA-CRP/Private	2,055	Private	2010	2021
North Magic Valley	Flat Top Mountain Area	Habitat Improvement and Management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation including installation of 18,786' of wildlife friendly fence with 61,430' of fence markers and raptor perch deterrents and retrofitting 4 stock tanks.	NRCS-SGI/Private	51,464	Private	2010	2013
North Magic Valley	Lava Lakes Area	Habitat Improvement and Management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation with future rangeland improvements planned, including seeding.	NRCS-SGI/Private	4,115	Private	2010	2013
North Magic	North Minidoka	Habitat Improvement	Project goal is to re-establish functioning vegetation	BLM fuels, HLI, and	25,000	BLM	2008	2011

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Valley			communities within sagebrush steppe that have been invaded by noxious weeds and invasive annual grasses. 2010 accomplishments included aerial application of chemical to control cheatgrass and drill seeding of perennial grasses and forbs.	sage-grouse conservation funds.				
Owyhee County	Upper Castle Creek Western Juniper Cut	Habitat Improvement	Cut juniper on over 500 acres, and fund and solicit bids for an additional 2,000 acres to be cut in 2011.	BLM fuels and Healthy Lands Funds	500	BLM	June 2010	October 2010
Shoshone Basin	Mule Creek	Fire Rehabilitation	Drill seeded 200 acres with a native-like grass and forb mixture and aerially seeded sagebrush seed on 1,700 acres.	BLM ESR Funds	1,900	Public – BLM	November 1, 2010	December 30, 2010
South Magic Valley	NE Cassia Fuels Reduction Project		To modify vegetation structure and lower fuel loads to reduce wildfire risk, while improving habitat for Greater sage-grouse and Mule deer.	Forest Service Fuels and wildlife funding	618	USDA Forest Service	6/1/2010	11/1/2010
South Magic Valley	Shrub and Forb Planting– NE Cassia Division and Black Pine Canyon/Black Pine Division		Planted native shrubs and forbs within the Black Pine 2 Fire (2007) perimeter and within the NE Cassia Fuels Project	Forest Service Wildlife funding	375	USDA FS	10/20/2010	11/1/2010
South Magic Valley	Roads and/or trails de-Commissioned in Sage-grouse habitat – Cassia Division		As per the Sawtooth National Forest Travel Plan (2008), physically removed 46 miles of non-system roads and trails.	Forest Service Watershed funding	46 miles affected	USDA Forest Service	6/1/2010	11/1/2010
South Magic Valley	Round Mtn. Creek area	Habitat improvement and management	Implement improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation and fencing to protect spring area	Private/BLM	5,120	Private	2006	2012
South Magic	Stanrod Creek area	Habitat management	Chemical spraying of sagebrush only in areas identified as having very	NRCS/	196	Private	2008	2014

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Valley			high cover to improve understory forbs and grass quality and quantity.	private				
South Magic Valley	The Basin area	Habitat improvement and management	Range planting of forbs and grasses around existing sagebrush stands	NRCS/ private	250	Private	2010	2010
South Magic Valley	CRP	Habitat improvement and management	15K acres of CRP lands to be maintained in permanent vegetation for the contract period of 10 years. All contracts have permanent wildlife habitat pollinator strips with a mix of 9 pollinator-friendly shrubs, legumes and wildflowers, including at least 3 species in bloom during each season of summer and fall	USDA-CRP/Private	15,000	2010	2021	
South Magic Valley	Emery Fire Rehab	Post-fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	Public land within the Emery Fire on Middle Mtn. was rehabilitated through implementation of noxious weed control efforts, aerial seeding, chaining, or dozer tracking (for seed cover), erosion control structures, fence repair or replacement and accompanying range management and monitoring.	BLM ESR program	3,287	BLM	Fall 2010	Fall 2010
South Magic Valley	Burley Shrub Plantings	Habitat Improvement	A joint project with IDFG, Shoshone Paiute Tribes and BLM to plant sagebrush and other shrub species important for a variety of wildlife species, including sage-grouse. 6550 acres were planted with 22,000 Wyoming sagebrush plants and 11,000 antelope bitterbrush seedlings.	BLM HLI and Fuels program, IDFG, Volunteers and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	6,550	BLM	Spring 2010	Continuing effort
South Magic Valley	Goose Creek Restoration	Habitat Improvement	The project consisted of thinning Utah juniper where it's encroached into sagebrush plant communities in the Goose Creek Watershed. Areas where known sage-grouse activity occurs were targeted to maximize the benefit to sage-grouse.	BLM HLI and Fuels Program	1,800	BLM	Fall 2009	Continuing effort

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Upper Snake	Wet Creek	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/Private	3,900	Private	2004	Continuing
Upper Snake	Teeney Creek	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/Private	5,500	Private/BLM	2009	Continuing
Upper Snake	Camas Creek	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	600	Private	2008	2014
Upper Snake	Area North of Sheep Station	Brush Management	Brush management to increase herbaceous understory.	NRCS/Private	773	Private	2006	2011
Upper Snake	Medicine Lodge Creek area	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting leafy spurge).	NRCS/Private	160	Private	2010	2012
Upper Snake	Medicine Lodge Creek	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting leafy spurge and knapweed).	NRCS/Private	430	Private	2010	2011
Upper Snake	Area NE of Montevue	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Decreased grazing to one month to improve vegetation.	NRCS/Private	122	Private	2007	2012
Upper Snake	Icehouse Creek	Habitat improvement and management	New permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	360	Private	2010	permanent
Upper Snake	Area West of Ashton	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	425	Private	2009	2013
Upper Snake	Rattlesnake Creek	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting thistles).	NRCS/Private	2,460	Private	2009	2014
Upper Snake	Davis Creek area	Sagebrush rangeland habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	2,244	Private	2010	2014

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Upper Snake	Westside area1	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	410	Private	2010	2021
Upper Snake	Westside area2	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	505	Private	2010	2021
Upper Snake	Osgood area1	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	106.4	Private	2010	2021
Upper Snake	Osgood area2	Habitat Improvement and management	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	USDA-CRP/Private	58	Private	2010	2021
Upper Snake	Wildland and prescribed fire follow up monitoring	Habitat monitoring	Dry Lake prescribed fire Dunes Fire Crater Lake Snowshoe Fire Antelope Valley prescribed fire	BLM	1,000 1,500 600 7,000 2,200	BLM/State/ Private	2006	On-going – shrubs in both fire & nonfire chemical treated plots were reduced over non chemical treated plots
Upper Snake	Voluntary Livestock Reduction (sheep & cattle) Table Butte	Habitat improvement	Voluntary reduction to improve upland habitat	BLM/ Private	23,709	BLM	April 2010	Continuing
Upper Snake	Cole Canyon – permanent livestock reduction of 23%	Habitat improvement	Permanent 23% reduction to improve upland habitat	BLM/ Private	4,500	BLM	June 2010	Converted from voluntary to permanent reduction
Upper Snake	Jefferson Fire	Fire Rehabilitation	Plant seedling sagebrush and reseed sagebrush	IDFG	600	IDL	Nov 2010	April 2011
Upper Snake	Jefferson Fire Rehabilitation	Emergency rehab & stabilization following wildland fire	Rehabilitation following wildfire affecting 25,585 acres on BLM, 304 acres private, 950 acres Idaho lands, and 82,016 acres owned by the US Department of Energy. Seedings on BLM land included 1,000 acres native seed, 500 acres crested	BLM	2,500	BLM	Oct 2010	Oct 2010

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			wheatgrass, and 1,000 acres sagebrush/winterfat					
Upper Snake	Weed Control	Habitat Improvement	Chemical Biological	US Forest Service	717 283	USFS	June 2010	Oct 2010
Upper Snake	Weed Control	Habitat Improvement	Chemical Biological Mechanical	BLM/ Stimulus Funding	26,248 421 7	BLM	April 2010	October 2010
Upper Snake	Weed Control	Habitat Improvement	Chemical	DOE-ID	768	DOE	April 1, 2010	November 1, 2010

^a Acronyms used in this table: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; DOE-ID = Department of Energy, Idaho; ESR = Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation; FSA = Farm Service Agency; GRP = Grassland Reserve Program; HLI = Healthy Lands Initiative; IDFG = Idaho Department of Fish and Game; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service; PR = Pitman Robertson; SGI = Sage-grouse Initiative; USAF = U.S. Air Force; USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture; USFS = U.S. Forest Service.

APPENDIX D: Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks

6.1 Local Working Group Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.1.1. Initiate formal Local Working Group (LWG) in Mountain Home.	IDFG		Group has not yet formalized, but has been meeting.
6.1.4. Identify funding needs and funding sources to implement the <i>Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho</i> (i.e. State Plan) and LWG plans, including support for LWG facilitators.	LWGs, Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC), SAC Funding Subcommittee	Next Steps: Develop a 5-year plan of funding needs and existing commitments for plan implementation by October 31, 2010. This plan will be updated in October each year. A funding summary will be included in the <i>2009 Annual Statewide Sage-grouse Report</i> and annually thereafter.	SAC Funding Subcommittee met December 15, 2010. They will draft a 5-year funding plan for the SAC to review in June 2011.
6.1.6. and 6.6.5. As information becomes available, develop measurable habitat restoration (based on Restoration Emphasis Areas) or maintenance goals for each Sage-grouse Planning Area (SGPA) during development of LWG plans (see page 1-32). LWGs with completed plans should confirm, revise, or develop goals.	LWGs, in coordination with private landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010	Challis and South Magic Valley: Habitat restoration goals are established on a project-by-project basis. Curlew: Forest Service has maintenance goals in the Curlew National Grassland Land Use Plan; Noted that NRCS has stated goals for sage-grouse habitat restoration.

6.2 Sage-grouse Advisory Committee Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.2.1. Review and update (if needed) State Plan	SAC	Target Deadline: Evaluate need in 2010	Not discussed.
6.2.2. Research mitigation and crediting programs used by other states and the federal government in shrubsteppe or other habitats (e.g., wetlands). Compile results and develop options for mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC)	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010 SAC Mitigation Subcommittee gave a presentation of their progress at the July SAC meeting.	The Mitigation Subcommittee researched a variety of mitigation and crediting programs. Options from various programs were considered during the development of a mitigation framework for sage-grouse habitat in Idaho
6.2.3. Review USFWS Status Report and <i>Ecology and Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse: a Landscape Species and its Habitats</i>	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: April 2010	SAC members have given 3 presentations thus far at SAC meetings. Kendra Womack, USFWS, summarized the USFWS findings at the

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
to be published in Studies in Avian Biology winter 2009/2010.			March 2010 SAC meeting. The SAC TAT agreed this is an ongoing task. They will continue to solicit for presentations.
6.2.4. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	Next Steps: Finalize proposal by December 1, 2010 SAC Mitigation Subcommittee updated the SAC of their progress at the October SAC meeting.	The Mitigation Subcommittee presented a drafted of a compensatory mitigation framework to state and federal agencies, and the SAC during August-October 2010. In December 2010, the SAC approved the mitigation framework to be submitted for consideration by relevant entities.
6.2.7. Help LWGs find funding sources for large-scale habitat restoration projects that may cross LWG boundaries.	SAC, in coordination with LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	The Idaho Watershed Initiative RFP and the OSC sage-grouse collaborative funds RFP were announced to better coincide with the NRCS sage-grouse initiative to provide a larger overall funding opportunity available to the LWGs
6.2.10. Develop and publish hard-copy photo guide to help landowners and the public recognize suitable sage-grouse seasonal habitats throughout their range in Idaho.	University of Idaho, in cooperation with BLM, IDFG and LWGs.	Target Deadline: March 2010	Completed.
6.2.11. Distribute photo guide to landowners, the general public, and interested user groups.	BLM, FS, IDFG, IDL, NRCS, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and LWGs.	Target Deadline: March 2010	Completed. Guide has been distributed to LWGs, IDFG and NRCS offices. It is also available for download at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage_grouse/
6.2.12. Develop SAC Education Subcommittee to collaboratively develop educational materials and programs; share lessons learned and success stories with LWGs and the public.	SAC	Target Deadline: January 2010	SAC Education Subcommittee met December 15, 2010. The Education Subcommittee has gathered together much of the available educational materials about sage-grouse and will not develop additional educational materials or programs at this time (with the exception of PowerPoint presentations in 6.2.17). Several new products are currently available, these include: <i>Sage-grouse Habitat in Idaho: A Practical Guide for Land Owners and Managers</i> (U of I) <i>Sage-grouse: Icon of the West</i> (USFWS) These documents are available for download on the IDFG website and have been widely distributed via email and hard copies. NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative promotional materials. The link to the NRCS website is on the IDFG sage-grouse web page.

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
			The SAC Education Subcommittee will utilize the SAC Quarterly Newsletter to share information on sage-grouse project successes. In addition, see 6.2.13 and 6.2.14.
6.2.13. Develop sage-grouse educational materials to be incorporated into education curricula, such as Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC).	SAC Education Subcommittee in coordination with IRRC and other interested groups	Target Deadline: April 2010	IDFG had a project WILD program for educators about sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse in Twin Falls in 2010. Dialogue has been established between this program and IRRC. The SAC Education Subcommittee will not develop separate educational materials for use in educational curricula at this time.
6.2.14. Develop planning and support protocols to assist SAC and LWGs on field trips.	SAC Education Subcommittee	Target Deadline: April 2010	In progress, revised target deadline February 2011.
6.2.15. Consider biennial LWG Conference, to focus on sharing information and success stories among LWGs.	SAC and SAC Education Subcommittee	Target Deadline: April 2010	Education Subcommittee will formulate a proposal and bring it to the SAC at the June 2011 meeting.
6.2.16. Consider sage-grouse educational seminar that would be open to the general public.	SAC and SAC Education Subcommittee	Target Deadline: April 2011	Education Subcommittee will formulate a proposal and bring it to the SAC at the June 2011 meeting.
6.2.17. Develop PowerPoint presentation materials that can be used by SAC, LWG members, and agency personnel to educate the public and user groups (e.g., Off-Highway Vehicle [OHV] groups) about sage-grouse and their habitat.	SAC Education Subcommittee	Target Deadline: April 2010	Revised target deadline June 2011. The SAC Education Subcommittee will produce 2 PowerPoint presentations; 1 will be about sage-grouse ecology, the other about sage-grouse conservation efforts in Idaho.
6.2.18. Pursue opportunity to use uncompensated time and expenses from non-governmental organization members, landowners, and general public for funding cost share on sage-grouse projects.	SAC Funding Subcommittee	Target Deadline: July 2010 and annually thereafter	No funding opportunities have been identified.

6.4 Conservation Measures Milestones

6.4.1 Wildfire

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.1.6. Identify access roads where the installation of additional fire danger signs may be warranted. Install new signs as needed.	BLM, FS, IDL, in cooperation with LWGs	Next Steps: Ongoing as needed	<p>Challis, EIU, Curlew: NA</p> <p>Jarbridge: Discussed in Jarbridge LWG Plan.</p> <p>North Magic Valley: Sent letter to Kimama Highway District requesting information on maintenance of Carey-Kimama road in relation to fire danger.</p> <p>Upper Snake: Signs have been installed on high access roads that pose fire hazards. There are approximately 50 permanent fire danger signs on the Targhee NF. Due to public concerns about sign pollution, new signs are not placed. However, fire crews patrol throughout the summer educating the public about fire safety, putting out abandoned campfires, and placing temporary signs during high fire danger periods or during periods of fire restrictions.</p>
6.4.1.7. Increase emphasis on mapping known water sources to ensure Interagency Fire Dispatch Centers have the latest information for fire suppression.	BLM, FS, state agencies, in cooperation with landowners and LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	<p>Big Desert, Challis: Completed.</p> <p>EIU: NA</p> <p>Curlew: Not needed</p> <p>Jarbridge: Discussed in Jarbridge LWG Plan.</p> <p>Upper Snake: Known water sources in the Big Desert have been mapped. Efforts to map water sources in Medicine Lodge and Sand Creek are currently occurring. Additionally, efforts to determine compatibility of existing water sources with currently owned equipment is presently occurring.</p> <p>On the Forest, all known water sources are already mapped and this information is at the interagency fire dispatch center. They even know which water bodies have whirling disease. The FS does not utilize water troughs because that would create conflicts with permittees and grazing management. The FS has several engines and water tenders (both in-house and contract) that can get water to a dry site. USFS fire fighting protocols have incorporated sage-grouse considerations including ensuring that incident command has information about leks, key habitat, and brood areas; highly aggressive initial attacks, and efforts to contain and maintain islands of intact habitat.</p>

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.1.8. In areas of limited water availability identify new water sources for fire suppression. Locate such water access facilities near suitable access roads. Mark locations of new sites on maps and distribute maps to Interagency Dispatch Centers.	BLM, FS, state agencies, in cooperation with landowners and LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	<p>Big Desert: 48,000 gallons available on private landowner's NRCS project.</p> <p>Challis: NA in 2010</p> <p>EIU, Curlew: NA</p> <p>Jarbridge: Fire suppression efforts are discussed in BLM Resource Plan.</p> <p>Upper Snake: Identification of new wells is on-going. In addition, one local crop duster is known to keep his plane loaded with water during fire season and he responds to calls for spot fire suppression on private ground.</p>
6.4.1.9. Work with lessees, permittees and private landowners to encourage that water storage facilities remain full during the fire season.	BLM, FS, IDL, in cooperation with LWGs	Target Deadline: June 1, 2010	<p>Big Desert: Addressed in BLM's permitting process.</p> <p>Challis: NA in 2010</p> <p>EIU, Jarbridge: NA</p> <p>Curlew: In place.</p> <p>Upper Snake: This is on-going. Generally done verbally one-on-one between ranchers and firefighters.</p> <p>USFS permittees always keep their troughs full during the fire season/grazing season. They have to in order to provide for the cattle and maintain distribution which enables them to keep their cattle on the allotment for the full permitted season.</p>
6.4.1.13. Explore and implement use of targeted grazing where fuel reduction is needed to protect and enhance sage-grouse habitat.	BLM, FS, IDL, NRCS, in cooperation with universities, livestock operators, and LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing. LWGs provide lists of accomplishments, needs, and proposals as part of LWG annual reporting.	<p>Big Desert: Discussed but not implemented.</p> <p>Challis: NA in 2010</p> <p>EIU, Jarbridge: NA</p> <p>Curlew: The LWG plans to discuss this at a future meeting.</p> <p>Upper Snake: Currently working with ranchers to target roadsides by leaving at least one band of sheep or goats behind to graze through the growing season along roadsides.</p> <p>The USFS has flexibility built into allotment management plans regarding on/off and pasture rotation dates for fuel reduction or drought. Further, utilization levels are limited to 50%. Upland areas do not always reach 50%, but this approximate level of utilization reduces fuels.</p>

6.4.2 Infrastructure

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.2.8. Identify specific roads or road sections where sage-grouse mortality has been documented. Work collaboratively with the appropriate agency(s) to develop measures to reduce the risk of road-related mortality of sage-grouse. Consider speed limits, brush control, signing, and public education.	LWGs	Target Deadline: April 2010 Next Steps: Explore possibility for and implications of “sage-grouse crossing” signs.	Big Desert: No problems documented to date. Challis: NA in 2010 EIU: Not yet identified. Curlew, Jarbidge: NA Upper Snake: The A2 road from Dubois to Kilgore was identified as a road segment with potential to create hazards to lekking sage-grouse. Road was monitored during spring 2010 and high use areas were mapped. Measures were developed to encourage birds to stay off the roadway. These measures will be implemented in 2011. “Sage-grouse Crossing” signs were installed at lek sites on the Red Road. In 2010, the Great Basin Restoration Initiative Workgroup prepared the document titled “Considerations for Strategically Reducing Fuels and Wildfires on Public Lands in the Great Basin with Targeted Grazing.” The document is available to interested parties via BLM State Offices.
6.4.2.9. Coordinate with the Idaho Office of Energy Resources to regularly obtain updated geospatial information on new and proposed energy projects (e.g., wind energy and MET towers; electrical transmission; geothermal development; and oil and gas pipelines) and associated infrastructure (e.g., distribution lines and roads). Consider posting data on www.insideidaho.org	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: Set up process by July 1, 2010.	Dialogue initiated in December 2010.
6.4.2.11. Work with utilities (energy and communications) to site new infrastructure projects away from occupied leks and identified important seasonal habitats, in accordance with section 4.3.2.3 (pages 4-42 to 4-46).	LWGs, BLM, FS, IDFG, and IDL, in coordination with utilities.	Target Deadline: Ongoing Next steps: IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG early in planning process.	Big Desert: Ongoing Challis: Identified seasonal habitat use areas; no new utility developments in 2010. EIU: Letters sent regarding UAMPS Horse Butte project. The company provided lek data to IDFG based on their monitoring. LWG will continue providing comments on the Gateway West project as opportunities arise. Curlew: LWG intends to comment on proposed projects.

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
			<p>Jarbridge: LWG member comments on the China Mountain Sage-grouse Conservation Plan.</p> <p>North Magic: Continued to be involved with the Friedman Airport Relocation, SWIP and MSTI updates, and any pending wind farm applications in their planning area.</p> <p>Owyhee: Owyhee County SGLWG drafted language for a September 2010 County Commission Letter addressing concern "...that the southernmost alternative for Segment 9 of Gateway West would adversely affect Greater Sage-grouse populations." The Commission letter continued with the following language drafted by the LWG, "The alternative route for Segment 9 that runs south of Highway 78 will impact important sage-grouse habitat in Owyhee County. This proposed route runs near dozens of known leks that are currently occupied by sage-grouse in the Owyhee Foothills. The Local Working Group feels that this is the least desirable alternative because the transmission line will attract avian predators, especially Common Ravens. Raptors and ravens use transmission lines for nesting, perching and roosting. Studies have shown that ravens are important nest predators of sage-grouse and that ravens move an average of 7 km and as far as 60 km from transmission line roosts each day. In addition, new roads required for this alternative would create extensive shrub loss and habitat fragmentation in previously undisturbed areas.</p> <p>The alternative (9D) that runs through the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) is a much better alternative. It would not affect Greater Sage-grouse because sage-grouse do not occur within the NCA. It would be compatible with maintaining raptor populations and the goals of the NCA. Research has demonstrated that properly designed transmission lines can be compatible with raptors."</p> <p>Upper Snake: The LWG will continue to provide comments on the Mountain States Transmission Intertie project as appropriate. IDFG and BLM both provided comments on the Areva project.</p>
6.4.2.12. For existing structures, work with utilities (energy and communications) to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures near occupied leks and identified important seasonal habitats.	LWGs, BLM, FS, and IDL, in coordination with utilities.	Target Deadline: Ongoing	<p>Big Desert: DOE committed to this in the Draft Candidate Conservation Agreement for the INL; IDFG has responded to information requests; ongoing task during BLM renewals for right of ways.</p> <p>Challis: NA in 2010</p>

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
			<p>EIU: None</p> <p>Curlw: LWG intends to comment on proposed projects</p> <p>Jarbridge: LWG member comments on the China Mountain Sage-grouse Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Upper Snake: LWG will provide comments as opportunities arise.</p>

6.4.3 Annual Grasslands

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.3.1. Promote washing of vehicle undercarriage to minimize potential to transport seeds and plant parts of noxious weeds and invasive plants, including cheatgrass.	SAC Education subcommittee in cooperation with Cooperative Weed Management Areas	Target Deadline: April 2010	<p>Don't Pack a Pest educational brochure is available for download at: http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/Documents/nwffs/packapest.pdf</p> <p>The Education Subcommittee will not develop separate educational materials at this time. The SAC TAT is working on a portion of this issue in 6.4.5.3.</p>
6.4.3.2. Review available cheatgrass occurrence maps and determine which would be most suitable for sage-grouse habitat mapping needs.	SAC TAT, in coordination with BLM	Target Deadline: 2010.	<p>Don Major, BLM, presented information on cheatgrass mapping at the October SAC meeting.</p> <p>Several SAC TAT members and others met February 15, 2011 to further discuss.</p>
6.4.3.3. Identify priority annual grasslands for restoration.	SAC TAT in coordination with LWGs	Target Deadline: Based on completion of 6.4.3.2.	Updated target deadline December 2011. This task will be accomplished in combination with Restoration Emphasis Areas 6.6.2.
6.4.3.4. Distribute prioritized annual grassland maps to LWGs.	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: Based on completion of 6.4.3.3.	Updated target deadline March 2012 in the 2011 LWG Annual Report,
6.4.3.6. Encourage state land management agencies and users and private landowners to utilize certified weed-free forage.	SAC	Target Deadline: SAC to write letter to IDL, IDFG, and Idaho Governor's Office, April 2010	<p>IDFG has approved the requirement of certified weed-free forage on its land.</p> <p>In September 2010, BLM published a supplementary Proposed Rule in the Federal Register that would require the use of certified weed-free hay, straw and mulch on BLM-managed lands in Idaho. Pending completion.</p>

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.3.8. Create and distribute a “watch list” of invasive plant species that can potentially alter sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, ISDA, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, in cooperation with LWGs.	Target Deadline: January 2010 and annually thereafter.	No progress.

6.4.4 Livestock Impacts

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.4.1. Identify areas where livestock management-related activities are repeatedly displacing sage-grouse on active leks and work with livestock managers to avoid problem areas during the lekking season (see page 4-61 and 4-62 for specific dates).	LWGs, with support from BLM, FS, IDL, SAC TAT	Target Deadline: December 31, 2010, with annual review thereafter.	Big Desert: Craters of the Moon Nation Monument Travel Management Plan identified lek locations and restrictions; BLM distributed maps to permittees in 2010 identifying lek locations and timing restrictions. Challis: No livestock in active leks throughout BLM’s Challis Field Office. EIU: In process of determining lek locations. Curlew: Ongoing Jarbidge: NA South Magic: BLM outreach projects Upper Snake: On an ongoing basis, BLM provides information on lek locations to livestock managers.
6.4.4.2. Provide livestock managers with maps of lek locations to address 6.4.4.1.	IDFG, BLM, FS, IDL, in coordination with LWGs	Target Deadline: At annual turn-out meeting or upon request, starting in 2010.	See 6.4.4.1 Accomplishments.
6.4.4.5. Identify funding for expiring CRP land to be used as livestock forage reserves	IDFG, NRCS, BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs	Target Deadline: September 1, 2010 and annually thereafter	No progress
6.4.4.6. Identify cost-share funding for livestock forage reserves on private land that need associated livestock-management facilities (e.g., fences and water developments).	IDFG, NRCS, BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs	Target Deadline: September 1, 2010 and annually thereafter	No progress

6.4.5 Human Disturbance

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.5.3. Develop conservation measures for OHV, mountain bike, and other organized recreational events in sage-grouse habitats to minimize impacts to leks and identified important seasonal habitats.	SAC TAT, BLM, FS, IDL, Idaho Parks and Recreation	Target Deadline: SAC TAT to research appropriate conservation measures by April 1, 2010. Consideration by land management agencies during planning and permitting OHV and mountain bike events.	The SAC TAT has drafted appropriate conservation measures, which they will bring to the full SAC for approval at the June 2011 meeting.

6.4.6 West Nile Virus

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.6.1. When practical, draw blood from trapped sage-grouse to test for presence of West Nile virus (WNV) antibodies. During WNV season, throat swabs should be collected to test for active WNV.	IDFG and other cooperators, including the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.	Next steps: Ongoing and seasonally.	Ongoing West Nile virus monitoring in Owyhee County.

6.4.7 Prescribed Fire

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.7.1. Require SAC-sponsored projects proposing sagebrush control provide site-specific data justifying treatment. Encourage all project proponents to consider sage-grouse habitat needs as described in the State Plan (see page 4-79).	SAC Land management agencies, NRCS, and private landowners	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010 and ongoing	Added language to RFP documents in 2010 funding round.

6.4.8 Seeded Perennial Grassland

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.8.1. Encourage establishment of sagebrush and desirable forbs and grasses into seeded perennial grasslands.	LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, land management agencies, private	Target Deadline: Ongoing	Big Desert: projects reported in Appendix D. Challis: Ongoing EIU: NRCS and IDFG are encouraging the use of native forbs and

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
	landowners		<p>grasses, including pollinators, as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Curlew: BLM is implementing this during restoration projects; NRCS is putting forbs in all plantings going into land formerly under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).</p> <p>Jarbridge: NA</p> <p>Shoshone Basin: Mule Creek Fire Rehabilitation</p> <p>South Magic: Always recommend to land management agencies to add desirable forbs and grasses (native if possible) to all seeding mixes.</p> <p>Upper Snake: BLM does this on an ongoing basis; NRCS does this on an ongoing basis on CRP lands.</p>
6.4.8.2. Encourage livestock grazing or habitat conservation of expiring CRP over tillage, cropping, or development.	LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, private landowners	Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter	<p>Big Desert, Challis, Jarbridge: NA</p> <p>EIU: NRCS discusses this with landowners when private land is retiring from CRP program.</p> <p>Curlew: NRCS has put prescribed grazing systems on former CRP lands.</p> <p>North Magic: Through NRCS's SGI, re-enrolled landowners in CRP on the Camas Prairie.</p> <p>Upper Snake: IDFG has a farm bill coordinator in Region 6 and that individual does this on an ongoing basis. IDFG also cooperates with Pheasants Forever on an additional farm bill coordinator position stationed in Blackfoot but available to work in the Upper Snake Sage-grouse Planning Area.</p>
6.4.8.3. Encourage FSA to incorporate information into FSA monthly newsletter regarding use of expiring CRP lands to benefit sage-grouse.	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter	<p>IDFG and NRCS worked together to encourage CRP sign-ups in September.</p> <p>IDFG and NRCS have submitted an article that is expected to be published in April 2011.</p>
6.4.8.4. Identify funding or other incentives for expired CRP land to be used for livestock grazing or habitat conservation over tillage, cropping, or development.	IDFG, NRCS, BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs	Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter	No progress

6.4.9 Climate Change

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.9.1. Collect and interpret climate change information significant to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat. Disseminate to SAC and LWGs.	SAC TAT, in coordination with USGS, Great Basin Restoration Initiative, and FS Research Stations	Target Deadline: October 2010 and ongoing	Revised target deadline October 2011 for a potential presentation on Don Major's work.
6.4.9.2. Explore scenario planning relative to climate change and sagebrush steppe. Disseminate to SAC and LWGs.	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: October 2011.	Revised target deadline October 2012.

6.4.10 Conifer Encroachment

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.10.2. Evaluate and disseminate information on the effectiveness, economic and technical feasibility, and lessons learned from various conifer removal treatments.	LWGs, SAC TAT, land management agencies, USGS, and FS Research Stations.	Target Deadline: January 2010 and annually thereafter	Revised target deadline spring 2011. The SAC TAT will pursue having an expert write an article about juniper control for the Spring 2011 SAC newsletter.

6.4.11 Isolated Populations

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.11.1. Refine criteria for and revisit populations identified as isolated (see page 4-99) and identify populations at risk of becoming isolated.	IDFG, in cooperation with LWGs	Target Deadline: December 2010 and ongoing	Big Desert, Curlew, Upper Snake: NA Challis: No isolated populations EIU: Ongoing telemetry work is designed to identify populations and determined if isolated populations exist within the planning area. Jarbidge: BLM mapping of isolated populations and core sage-grouse areas.

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.11.2. Ensure that hunting regulations are consistent with maintaining the viability of isolated populations.	IDFG, in cooperation with LWGs	Target Deadline: July 2010 and annually thereafter	Big Desert, Challis, Curlew, Upper Snake: NA EIU: Recommended closure until more is known about populations. Jarbidge: Group recommendations to IDFG on hunting season regulations – close season or limited 5-day (weekday) one-bird season. North Magic: Conducted annual assessment of planning area population trends and provided hunting season recommendations to IDFG. Shoshone Basin: Done during IDFG comment period. South Magic: Submitted appropriate comments to IDFG for a restrictive hunting season in 2010.

6.4.12 Predation

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.12.1. Collect available studies and information on predation effects on sage-grouse, disseminate information, and identify additional research needs.	SAC TAT, in coordination with LWGs	Target Deadline: April 2010	Revised target deadline spring 2011. Five new studies on predation effects have been published since the SAB chapter was written. A SAC TAT member will summarize and synthesize the information and write an article for the Spring 2011 SAC newsletter.
6.4.12.4. Review existing data to identify typical (baseline) densities of sage-grouse predators in different habitats, landscapes, and seasons (see pages 4-105 and 4-108). Pursue research or monitoring activities to fill in knowledge gaps and identify parameters to define abnormal densities. Initial priorities are to look at corvids and red fox.	IDFG, APHIS-WS	Target Deadline: December 2010	No progress.

6.4.13 Urban/Exurban

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.13.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to conversion to urban/exurban development.	LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	Big Desert: One county commissioner attended the June field tour. Challis: No accomplishments in 2010

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
			<p>EIU: Addressed in draft Conservation Plan</p> <p>Curlew, Jarbidge, Upper Snake: NA</p> <p>North Magic: Identified in Urban Threats section of local plan (in progress)</p> <p>South Magic: Identified area from valley floor from Elba to Almo as vulnerable.</p>
6.4.13.2. Inform and encourage county government planning and zoning organizations to consider sage-grouse habitat needs.	LWGs, IDFG, OSC	Target Deadline: Ongoing	<p>Challis: IDFG commented through the county comprehensive planning process.</p> <p>EIU: One LWG member recently submitted comments to Bonneville County regarding proposed wind development area. In addition, IDFG personnel have provided comments at planning and zoning (P&Z) meetings.</p> <p>Curlew: Ongoing. Oneida County Commissioners are actively participating in the LWG.</p> <p>Jarbidge: NA</p> <p>Owyhee: During the creation of the Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and supporting Zoning Ordinances, County SGLWG and Natural Resources Committee members were actively involved in proposing elements of the code regarding species considerations. As a result, one of the elements of the County Code which an applicant for a Conditional Use Permit must meet deals with harm to species.</p> <p>Upper Snake: LWG members attend/participate in Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, and Jefferson County P&Z planning processes</p>
6.4.13.3. Inform and encourage local land trusts to consider sage-grouse habitat needs in conservation planning.	LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	<p>Challis, Upper Snake: Ongoing</p> <p>EIU: Ongoing encouragement to the Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust</p> <p>Curlew: Not necessary</p> <p>Jarbidge: NA</p> <p>North Magic: Wood River Land Trust participates in LWG meetings.</p>
6.4.13.4. Encourage the use of conservation	IDFG, LWGs,	Target Deadline: Ongoing	Challis: Ongoing, but no funds to support.

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
easements to protect sage-grouse habitats.	NRCS		EIU: NRCS encourages on an ongoing basis. Curlew: NRCS is actively encouraging conservation easements to protect sage-grouse habitats. Jarbidge: NA Upper Snake: Ongoing
6.4.13.8. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to urban/exurban development annually by county.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with LWGs	Target Deadline: Report in Statewide LWG Annual Report.	The SAC TAT has requested this information from LWGs starting with the 2009 LWG Annual Report. However, the LWGs might not have the tools needed to answer the question. The SAC TAT will investigate other methods to address the issue.

6.4.14 Sagebrush Control

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.14.1. Require SAC-sponsored projects proposing sagebrush control provide site-specific data justifying treatment. Encourage all project proponents to consider sage-grouse habitat needs as described in the State Plan (see page 4-79).	SAC Land management agencies, NRCS, and private landowners	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010 and ongoing	Added language to RFP documents in 2010 funding round.

6.4.15 Insecticides

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.15.1. Identify agricultural fields that are used by sage-grouse during the late brood-rearing period and that might be a concern for insecticide application. Inform landowners about how to reduce potential impacts.	LWGs, IDFG, NRCS, University of Idaho extension, ISDA	Target Deadline: July 2010 and ongoing	EIU: No activity Curlew: Not yet addressed Jarbidge: NA North Magic: Identified within Agricultural Threats section of local plan (in progress)

6.4.16 Agricultural Expansion

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.16.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to agricultural conversion	LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	EIU: Threat of conversion as lands retire from CRP is addressed in the EIU Sage-grouse Conservation Plan. Curlew: Not yet addressed Jarbidge: NA, limited application in this planning area. Upper Snake: IDFG has identified habitat that is vulnerable to conversion in Clark, Fremont, and Jefferson counties.
6.4.16.2. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to agriculture annually by county.	SAC TAT, NRCS, in cooperation with LWGs	Target Deadline: Report in Statewide LWG Annual Report.	The SAC TAT has requested this information from LWGs starting with the 2009 LWG Annual Report. However, the LWGs might not have the tools needed to answer the question. The SAC TAT will investigate other methods to address the issue.
6.4.16.3. Inform and encourage local land trusts to consider sage-grouse habitat needs in conservation planning.	LWGs	Target Deadline: Ongoing	Challis, Upper Snake: Ongoing EIU: Ongoing encouragement to the Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust Curlew: Not necessary Jarbidge: NA North Magic: Wood River Land Trust participates in LWG meetings.
6.4.16.4. Encourage the use of conservation easements to protect sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, LWGs, NRCS	Target Deadline: Ongoing	Challis: Ongoing, but no funds to support. EIU: NRCS encourages on an ongoing basis. Curlew: NRCS is actively encouraging conservation easements to protect sage-grouse habitats. Jarbidge: NA Upper Snake: Ongoing

6.4.17 Sport Hunting

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.17.3. Review Hunting Season and Bag-limit Guidelines based on additional data, updated research, and analysis.	IDFG	Target Deadline: October 2010 and ongoing	Ongoing

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.17.4. Consider the feasibility and potential value of implementing a permit system with mandatory reporting by all sage-grouse hunters.	IDFG	Target Deadline: July 30, 2010	Ongoing
6.4.17.5. Resolve sage-grouse harvest reporting zone boundaries.	IDFG	Target Deadline: December 31, 2009	Completed
6.4.17.6. Explore opportunities to collect more wings from harvested sage-grouse (e.g., statewide mail-in wing survey, additional wing barrels, etc.).	IDFG, in coordination with LWGs	Target Deadline: July 30, 2010	IDFG sent out 2,000 mail-in wing envelopes to sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permit holders in 2010; 445 wings were returned in envelopes. The Upper Snake LWG received an OSC grant in 2010 to add informational kiosks to wing barrels at 12 locations.

6.4.18 Mines, Landfills, and Gravel Pits

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.18.4. Require gravel pit operators on federal and state (IDL) land to control noxious and invasive weeds.	BLM, FS, IDL	Target Deadline: December 31, 2010 IDL will include language in all leases requiring lessees to manage noxious weeds.	No known progress

6.4.19 Falconry

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.4.19.1. Survey falconers annually to obtain monthly sage-grouse harvest data.	IDFG	Next Steps: Next survey spring 2010.	Survey planned for spring 2011.
6.4.19.2. Review falconer survey data and updated data on sage-grouse lek attendance, and evaluate the falconry hunting season.	IDFG	Target Deadline: July 2010	Survey planned for spring 2011.

6.5 Monitoring Milestones

6.5.1 Population Monitoring

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.5.1.3. Explore the potential for initiating the "Adopt a Lek" program for Idaho, to increase monitoring of leks, while also ensuring that volunteers have adequate training.	IDFG	Next Steps: Consider feasibility of volunteer lek survey program in other regions and implement by March 2010.	No progress
6.5.1.6. Develop and distribute radio-telemetry guidelines for sage-grouse telemetry projects.	IDFG	Target Deadline: March 2010	In progress; revised target deadline July 2011.

6.5.2 Habitat Monitoring

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.5.2.4. Develop and implement long-term habitat and threats monitoring programs, with the focus on: areas of priority to LWGs; habitats associated with priority lek routes; areas where land uses or threats have changed; or unique areas of local or regional importance.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with IDFG, BLM, FS, DOE, and LWGs	Target Deadline: March 2010	Revised deadline March 2011 for habitat monitoring methods list and December 2011 for proposed changes to 2011 LWG Annual Report Form. Habitat Monitoring: The SAC TAT agreed that the scale of this task was beyond our scope. However, we will compile and distribute a list of recommended standardized protocols. Threats Monitoring: The SAC TAT identified a need to change the way we ask LWGs to report threats in the LWG Annual Report.
6.5.2.6. Continue to explore and review emerging remote-sensing tools and products that would have the capability and accuracy to refine or replace the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map.	SAC TAT, in coordination with universities	Target Deadline: Ongoing as tools and products are developed.	In progress. There is currently a BLM/IDFG/U of I Challenge Cost Share project to map and model sage-grouse habitat and seasonal habitats. This product is expected to be available in May 2011. The map is expected to replace the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map, but will also include seasonal habitats.
6.5.2.7. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts.	SAC	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010	Added language to RFP documents and incorporated into grant agreements beginning in 2010.
6.5.2.8. Provide training for habitat and restoration monitoring to LWGs and other interested parties to monitor local projects.	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: Ongoing, as requested	The SAC TAT will conduct a vegetation monitoring workshop on June 4, 2011, in conjunction with the June 2-3 SAC meeting.

6.6 Habitat Restoration Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	Next Steps or Target Deadline	2010 Accomplishments
6.6.2. Identify Restoration Emphasis Areas (REAs) within each SGPA. Post pdf of map on the IDFG sage-grouse website. Post GIS data on the Inside Idaho website at www.insideidaho.org . REAs are identified areas with missing, marginal, or degraded sage-grouse habitat characteristics that if successfully improved or restored should result in a positive sage-grouse population response.	IDFG/TNC, SAC TAT, BLM, FS, IDL, in cooperation with LWGs	Accomplishments: Draft REA maps were identified in most SGPAs by Fall 2008.	<p>Next Steps: Updated by March 1, annually. The SAC TAT will make REAs more comprehensive for March 2012 update. The SAC TAT will assure that the new REA map is readily available to LWGs.</p> <p>REAs are currently not available on Inside Idaho. They will be posted by March 2011.</p> <p>The SAC TAT will investigate including new mapping products in the REAs process. This should include cheatgrass and cheatgrass risk mapping (6.4.3.2), sage-grouse breeding density maps, juniper invasion mapping (Don Major), and seeded perennial grasslands.</p> <p>They also discussed the need to annually update the REA map to include removing areas that are recovering on their own.</p>
6.6.3. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts	SAC	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010	Added language to RFP documents and incorporated into grant agreements beginning in 2010.
6.6.4. Provide training for habitat and restoration monitoring to LWGs and other interested parties to monitor local projects.	SAC TAT	Target Deadline: Ongoing, as requested	The SAC TAT will conduct a vegetation monitoring workshop on June 4, 2011, in conjunction with the June 2-3 SAC meeting.
6.6.5. As information becomes available, develop measurable habitat restoration (based on Restoration Emphasis Areas) or maintenance goals for each Sage-grouse Planning Area (SGPA) during development of LWG plans (see page 1-32). LWGs with completed plans should confirm, revise, or develop goals.	LWGs, in coordination with private landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010	<p>Challis and South Magic Valley: Habitat restoration goals are established on a project-by-project basis.</p> <p>Curlew: Forest Service has maintenance goals in the Curlew National Grassland Land Use Plan; Noted that NRCS has stated goals for sage-grouse habitat restoration.</p>